

## Lesson 54 - Joseph Sold by His Brothers

### Opening Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach us to speak kindly of everyone. Give us words that encourage, not tear down. Give us words that heal not hurt. Above all teach us to love and thank You each day.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Memory Work:

#### Bible: Genesis 39:2-3

The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. He worked in the house of his Egyptian master. Joseph's master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he did successful.

#### Catechism: The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

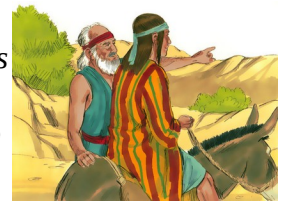
**Focus:** We should never lie about someone or spread words about someone that would hurt them. Even if we might know it is true. Slander does more than hurt feelings. It can destroy lives. Words are powerful. Our tongue can be a dangerous weapon.

### Lesson: Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-20



Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks at Shechem {*SHEK-em*}. Israel [*that is Jacob whose name was changed to Israel*] then said to Joseph, "Your brothers are taking care of the flocks at Shechem. I'm going to send you to them."

Joseph responded, "I'll go."



So Israel said, “See how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and bring some news back to me.” Then he sent Joseph away from the Hebron Valley.

When Joseph came to Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the open country. “What are you looking for?” the man asked.

Joseph replied, “I’m looking for my brothers. Please tell me where they’re taking care of their flocks.”

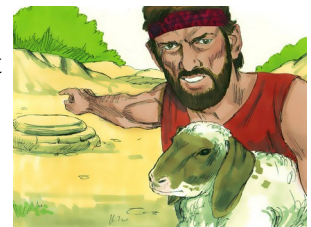
The man said, “They moved on from here. I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.



They saw him from a distance. Before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. They said to each other, “Look, here comes that master dreamer! Let’s kill him, throw him into one of the cisterns, and say that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we’ll see what happens to his dreams.”



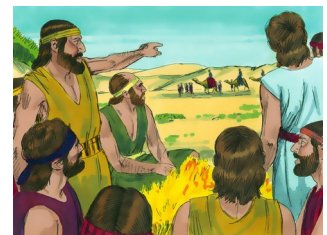
When Reuben heard this, he tried to save Joseph from their plot. “Let’s not kill him,” he said. “Let’s not have any bloodshed. Put him into that cistern that’s out in the desert, but don’t hurt him.” Reuben wanted to rescue Joseph from them and bring him back to his father.



So when Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped him of his special robe with long sleeves. Then they took him and put him into an empty cistern. It had no water in it.

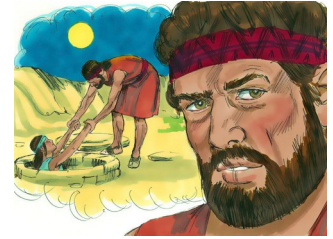


As they sat down to eat, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites (*ISH-may-al-ites*) coming from Gilead {*GILL-ee-ad*}. Their camels were carrying the materials for cosmetics, medicine, and embalming. They were on their way to take them to Egypt.

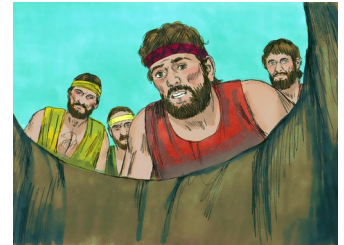


Judah asked his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother and covering up his death? Let us sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let’s not hurt him, because he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

As the Midianite {*MID-ee-an-ites*} merchants were passing by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for eight ounces of silver. The Ishmaelites took him to Egypt.



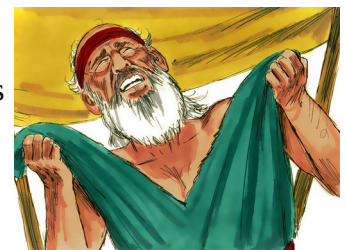
When Reuben came back to the cistern and saw that Joseph was no longer there, he tore his clothes in grief. He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! What am I going to do?”



So they took Joseph’s robe, killed a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. Then they brought the special robe with long sleeves to their father and said, “We found this. You better examine it to see whether it’s your son’s robe or not.”



He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! A wild animal has eaten him! Joseph must have been torn to pieces!” Then, to show his grief, Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and mourned for his son a long time.



All his other sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. He said, “No, I will mourn for my son until I die.” This is how Joseph’s father cried over him.

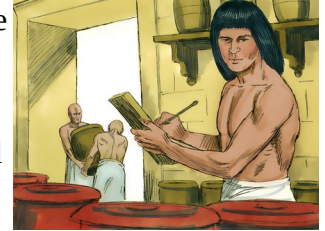
Meanwhile, in Egypt the Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar (*POT-i-fer*), one of Pharaoh’s officials and captain of the guard.

...

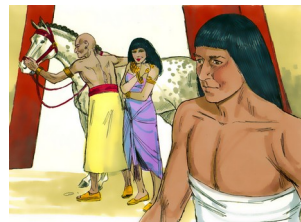
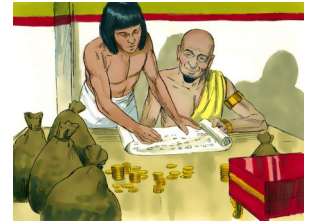
Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.



The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

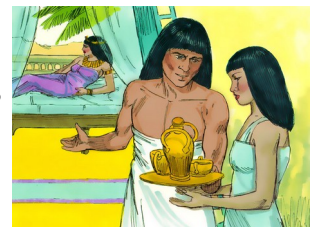


From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.



Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “[Come and be with me].”

But Joseph refused and said to his master's wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”



And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, or be with her.



But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there. She caught him by his garment, saying, “Be with me.”

But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

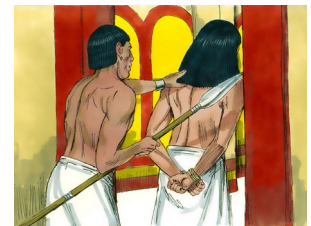


And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and [lied. She] said to them, “See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to be with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.”



Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.”

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.



**Review:**

What were Joseph's brothers doing? Taking care of the sheep

What did Israel (Jacob) tell Joseph to do? Go see how they are doing

When Joseph's brothers saw him what did they plan to do to him? Kill him.

Do you remember the name of the brother that tried to save him? Reuben

What did they do to Joseph when he arrived? Took his coat/robe and put him in a cistern (or well)

Instead of killing him, what did they do with him? Sold him to the traders (the Midian Ishmaelites)

Then what did they do with Joseph's coat/robe? Dipped it in blood

When they got home what did they say to their father Jacob/Israel? Is this your son's coat/robe

How did Jacob/Israel respond? He tore his clothes and cried

Where did the traders bring Joseph? Egypt

What did they do with him? Sold him as a slave

What did God do for Joseph? Blessed him so that everything he did succeeded

What did Potiphar's wife think of Joseph? She liked him a lot. She wanted to be with him.

What did Joseph say? He said, "No." He could not dishonor her husband that way

When he refused, what did she do? She lied about him and spread gossip to hurt him

What happened to Joseph? He was put in prison/jail

**Closing Prayer:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Jesus, teach us to use our words to heal and help the people around us. Help us to see new ways we can encourage and support our neighbor. Help us to say everything in the kindest way.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.