

## Bible Story 8: JOSEPH: GOD TAKES CARE OF HIS LIFE

**SCRIPTURE:** GENESIS 37:1-5,12-14,23-36; 39:1-23; 40:1-4,8; 41:1-4,8-16, 28-43,46-49,54-57; 42:1-8; 45:3-5; 47:1-27; 50:19-22

**MEMORY VERSE:** “CASTING ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM (GOD) BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.” I PETER 5:7 NIV

### BIBLE STORY:

Jacob had twelve children. Joseph was next to the youngest son. The father loved Joseph more than his other children and gave him a beautiful, colorful robe.

Joseph's brothers did not like him. One day they sold Joseph to a caravan of people going to Egypt. But God was with Joseph. There he was sold to Potiphar, captain of the king's guard. He took care of Potiphar's home and all his belongings. One day Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph and he was put into prison. God was still with Joseph, taking care of him and protecting him. In prison the guard found favor in Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners. Two prisoners, the chief cup bearer and the chief baker, had dreams and Joseph told them what they meant. Soon afterwards the cup bearer went back to work for the king.

Two years later the king of Egypt had two dreams and he was sad, because he did not know what the dreams meant. The cup bearer told the king about Joseph and he was brought to the palace. With God's help, Joseph told the king what the dreams meant. There would be seven years when there would be lots of crops and food. Afterwards there would be seven years of drought, with little rain and very little food. The king put Joseph in charge, second-in-command of Egypt. Joseph helped take care of the country. He had the people store and save food during the prosperous years, when there was lots of food. This way the people could buy food during drought years, when little food could be grown.

One day his brothers came to Egypt to buy food and Joseph gave them food. When they found out that he was their brother, they asked him to forgive them for the wrong things that they had done against him. He forgave them. He invited his whole family to come live in Egypt where he could help take care of them. They were happy to be together again and to see his father again.

Joseph told his family that God was always with him, helping to take care of his life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

### RETELL THE STORY:

Ask volunteers from the group to retell the story.