LESSON 5

JOSEPH'S DREAMS



Aim: **To teach the children that God had a plan for Joseph's life – and for our lives, too.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 37:1-11**

Memory Verse: **Ephesians 1:4**
[God] chose us in him before the creation of the world …

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class if anyone had a dream the night before. What was it about? Sometimes our dreams do not make much sense. Today's Bible story is about someone who dreamed. His dreams upset his whole family. His brothers even started calling him "that dreamer".

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. Joseph was Jacob's eldest son with Rachel, the wife he loved best. Do you remember from last time that God gave Jacob a new name? It was Israel. **Show picture 4.**
   Joseph was one of Israel's 12 sons. He was not popular with his brothers. **Explain why (37:2).** He told tales about his brothers to his father.
   With his father, on the other hand, Joseph was very popular. This made his brothers jealous. Their father also gave Joseph a special grand robe. This worsened the jealousy and bad feelings (v 3-4).
2. Then Joseph had a dream in which they bowed before him. He told his brothers about it (v 5-7). **Show picture 5.** They were angry. "Do you think you are going to reign over us?" they asked (v 8).
3. Joseph had a second dream, which was even more shocking (v 9). This time his father was angry with him, too (v 10). Parents are not supposed to bow down or pay respect like this to one of their children, and in those times elder brothers were considered to be above the younger ones in rank. Jacob couldn't put Joseph's dreams out of his mind.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

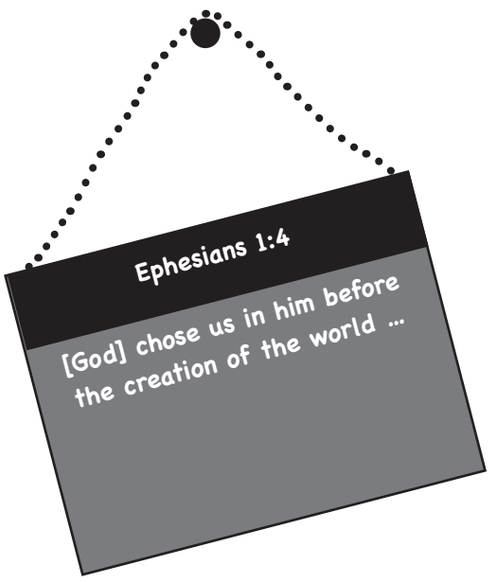
God had a plan for Joseph's life. But Joseph was not a very nice person, it seems. It also wasn't exactly sensible of him to boast about those dreams. God had to change him in order to work out his plan in Joseph's life.

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God has a plan for our lives even before we are born. Hear what the memory verse says.

Instil the Memory Verse



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