LESSON 10

JOSEPH RULES IN EGYPT



Aim: **To show how Joseph's youthful dreams came true. God has a plan for everyone's life. He will guide and bless us, as he did with Joseph.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 42:1-29**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 37:23**
If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm ...

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Everybody knows what it feels like to be hungry. **Remind the children that in 1987 and 1988 many thousands of Sudanese walked across the Sudan to Ethiopia, another country, to find food.** Other people walked from Tori in Northern Ghana to Juba in Southern Sudan. This is a journey that takes several days on foot.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. Jacob's household, a big family of 11 sons and their wives and children, was hungry. There was famine in their land. Jacob sent 10 sons to Egypt, where he had heard there was grain to be bought (42:1-5).
2. Joseph was a very important person now. He was efficient at managing Egypt's grain supplies. The brothers were very polite to this powerful man. They did not recognise their little brother, but Joseph saw who they were (42:6-7). **Show picture 10. Point out that the brothers are begging to buy some grain.** Does this picture remind you of another one we have seen before? **Show picture 5.** Joseph's dream had come true!
   Return to picture 10. Look at Joseph. He was very stern with his brothers. He did not tell them he was Joseph. He wanted to test them to see if they were as cruel as ever. He accused them of being spies. That is, people working for another king against Pharaoh of Egypt (42:6-14).
3. All the brothers were put in prison. To test the truth of what they had told about their family, one brother was to return home and bring back the youngest brother to Egypt. After three days Joseph relented. He allowed all the brothers to return home except for Simeon. He had to stay in prison until the others returned with the youngest one, Benjamin (42:15-20, 24).
4. The brothers talked in their own language among themselves. They did not realise that Joseph understood what they were saying! They believed God was punishing them for their cruelty towards Joseph. They were beginning to feel sorry about what they had done (42:21-24).

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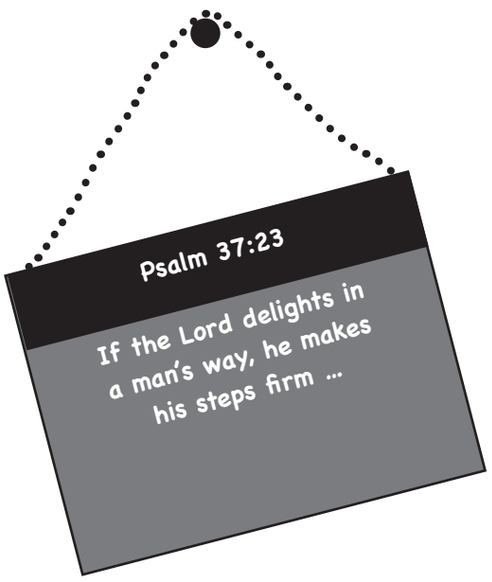


5. On their way home, the brothers found the money they had paid for the grain in the top of their sacks. They did not understand it. Who was this strange governor of Egypt (42:25–29)?

Our Response to the Story

Joseph's youthful dream about his brothers honouring him was fulfilled when they came to Egypt to buy food where Joseph was in charge of selling the grain. Our whole lives are in God's hands. That should make us feel very safe. Nothing can happen to us without God knowing and caring about it. **Read the class the list in Romans 8:35–39.**

Instil the Memory Verse



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