

## Joseph Sent to Egypt

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57

**MAIN POINT:** God used Joseph's suffering for good.

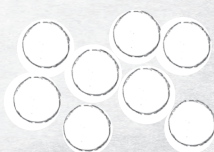
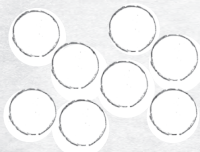
**UNIT KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

**SMALL GROUP OPENING**  
(10-15 MINUTES)  
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**LARGE BIBLE STUDY**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 192**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER**  
(25-30 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 198**



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jacob grew up in strife with his twin brother, Esau. He deceived his father, Isaac, to steal Esau's blessing. Then he spent many years away from his family to avoid Esau's anger. God spoke to Jacob in a dream and reaffirmed to Jacob the promise He gave to Abraham and Isaac. Finally, God called Jacob home to the land of Canaan. God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

Jacob had 12 sons. They would become the leaders of the tribes of Israel. But Jacob's favorite son was Joseph. Joseph was the son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, and Jacob didn't hide his favoritism. He gave Joseph a gift that his other sons did not get: a beautiful coat of many colors.

Of course, this did not endear Joseph to his siblings. Neither did Joseph's announcement that God had spoken to him in dreams—dreams that revealed that one day everyone in Joseph's family would bow down to him. Joseph's brothers planned evil against him, and Joseph ended up in a hole in the ground. Then he was sent to Egypt and was accused of a crime he did not commit.

Maybe Joseph felt alone in the pit and in prison. Did God forget Joseph? No. God was with Joseph, and He had a wonderful plan. God raised up Joseph into a position of power in Egypt. God used Joseph to establish a remnant—a small, surviving group of His people. Centuries later, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world as part of that family.

Jesus experienced true loneliness and ultimate suffering as He died on the cross for our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin. We won't experience true loneliness because Jesus promised to always be with us. (Matt. 28:20) And compared to the weight of glory awaiting believers, our suffering on earth is “momentary light affliction” (2 Cor. 4:17).

God is in control of our lives, and He uses suffering and injustice to accomplish His plans in and through us. We can trust God's faithfulness. Through all circumstances, God's will prevails—all for His glory and our good.



**MINISTRY GRID**  
training made simple

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# The BIBLE STORY

## Joseph Sent to Egypt

*Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57*

Jacob and his family were home in Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham and his family. **Jacob had 12 sons, but his favorite son was Joseph. Jacob gave Joseph a colorful robe. The other brothers hated Joseph.**

**One day**, Joseph shared with his brothers a dream he had. He dreamed that he and his brothers were putting together bundles of grain. Suddenly Joseph's grain stood up and the others bowed down to his. Then Joseph had another dream. In this dream, Joseph saw the sun, the moon, and 11 stars bowing to him. This dream meant all of Joseph's family would one day bow down to Joseph.

Some time later, **Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, who were tending to the sheep. When the brothers saw Joseph coming, they decided to kill him. Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother, convinced the others to throw him into a pit instead.**

**The brothers** threw Joseph into the pit. Then they **saw a caravan of people heading to Egypt. The brothers sold Joseph to them as a servant.** The brothers dipped Joseph's robe in goat's blood and showed it to Jacob. Jacob thought an animal had killed Joseph, and he was very sad.

Meanwhile, **the travelers sold Joseph to an Egyptian officer named Potiphar.** The Lord was with Joseph and made him successful at everything he did. Potiphar realized this and put him in charge as his personal assistant.

**Potiphar's wife** tried to get Joseph to sin against God and Potiphar, but Joseph refused. This made her angry, and she **accused Joseph of doing something he didn't do. Potiphar believed his wife, and Joseph went to jail.**

**God was with Joseph and blessed him. The jail warden put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners, and God made Joseph successful. Two of the prisoners Joseph cared for were Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. Both of them told Joseph about dreams they had, and Joseph told them what the dreams meant. Joseph said that one day, the cupbearer would serve Pharaoh again, but the baker would not because in three days, the baker would die. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him and to tell Pharaoh that he did not deserve to be in jail.**

The cupbearer did serve Pharaoh again, but he forgot about Joseph for two years. At that time, **Pharaoh had two dreams. Pharaoh saw seven fat cows eaten by seven skinny cows, and seven fat heads of grain eaten by seven thin heads. No one knew what these dreams meant! That's when the cupbearer remembered Joseph.**

**God told Joseph what Pharaoh's dreams meant, and Joseph explained the dreams to Pharaoh.** "The dreams represent seven years of lots of food followed by seven years with no food. You should pick someone to save food during the good years to use during the bad years."

**Pharaoh realized that God was with Joseph, so he made Joseph second-in-command in all of Egypt—no one was more important than Joseph, except for Pharaoh himself. Joseph stored away food during the good years, and during the famine, people came to him to buy grain.**

*Christ Connection: God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great power. God used Joseph to help Joseph's family and many others. Jesus gave up his position of great power to be the Savior of the world.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S  
WORD? GET  
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God sent Joseph to Egypt to save people from many nations. (Gen. 41:57) God also sent Jesus to earth to rescue from sin all who trust in Him. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Joseph Sent to Egypt

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57

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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

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## Welcome time

**ARRIVING ACTIVITY:** Talk about a time that was hard. Ask kids to tell you about a time that was very hard for them. Maybe something happened that was sad or that didn't seem to make sense to a kid. Ask them to explain how they felt when it happened and how they feel about it now.

**SAY** • Sometimes we don't understand why things happen. We can trust that God is in control and that His plan is working. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.*** We'll learn more about a time when a man named Joseph experienced a hard time, and God used that time for good!

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide kids to complete the activity page by finding each word hidden in the word search.

**SAY** • Jacob had 12 sons. One of those sons was named Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph. He was Jacob's favorite son. Something terrible happened to Joseph and it didn't seem like God was going to use what happened for good, but He did! We'll learn more about this today.

- "Joseph's Early Life" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Who was tapped?

Guide kids to put the palms of their hands over their eyes, while bowing their heads. Choose one child to walk around the room and tap one person on the shoulder. Then, when you ask kids to raise their heads, each child will get the opportunity to guess who was tapped. Continue play until multiple children have the chance to participate.

**SAY** • Some of you were falsely accused. Others thought you had been tapped when you had not. In our story today, Joseph was put in a bad situation. Not only did he end up living far from his home, he was accused of something he didn't do. Joseph was put in jail. Even after Joseph was put in jail, God continued to bless Joseph. **God used Joseph's suffering for good.** We'll learn more about what happened today.



LOW PREP

Note: encourage the kid who was tapped to not tell that they have been tapped.

### OPTION 2: Coat of many colors

Draw the shape of a coat or long shirt on a piece of poster board. Guide kids to cut pieces of construction paper and tape them on the coat.

**SAY** • Jacob showed that Joseph was his favorite son by giving him a beautiful coat of many colors. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of Jacob's love for Joseph, so they did something terrible to him. Even when Joseph's situation wasn't good, God was still in control and used all of Joseph's suffering for good. We'll learn more about it today!

- poster board
- marker
- construction paper
- scissors
- tape

## Transition to large group

# Large Group LEADER

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## Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

## Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- leader attire from previous week
- theme background slide (optional)

*[Large Group Leader enters in mismatched pieces of sports gear. She may have on a catcher's helmet, shin guards, and elbow pads, while moving a basketball on stage with a hockey stick.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, friends! I'm so glad you are back for another session today. I hope you brought the right shoes for a little running. We are going to learn about many years in the life of Joseph today, so we are going to have to go quickly! We better get started!

## Giant timeline (2 minutes)

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**LEADER** • Do you remember how we got to this session? Can anyone tell me about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Remember, God made a covenant with Abraham to make his descendants as numerous as the stars. God also said that He would bless all the world through those descendants. This promise continued to Isaac and Jacob and Jacob's family, which is where we find ourselves today.

Use the giant timeline to point out to kids where today's story falls. Remind them of the promise God made to Abraham and how God had confirmed the promise with Isaac and then Isaac's son Jacob. Explain that Jacob had 12 sons, and one of those sons was Joseph.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • As we've learn about Joseph's story, we can remember our big picture question. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.*** We'll see God's plan to use Joseph's suffering for good in our session today.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Key passage (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • God was always with Joseph throughout the difficult situations he found himself in. Similarly, we know that God has promised to always be with those who trust Jesus because He has given the Holy Spirit to them. The promise that God made to Abraham has been continued through many generations to us! God blessed all the world by sending Jesus, His only Son, to die on the cross to pay for sin and rise again three days later. This is the best news we could ever receive! Jesus made a way for us to have a right relationship with God. The promise found in Genesis 26:24 was for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and it continues on today.

Sing together, "I Am With You."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "I Am With You" song

- “Rest in His Promise” song

## Sing (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • Aren’t you glad that we can trust God to keep every promise that He has made in the Bible? We can trust His promises and that every word in the Bible is true. Let’s praise God for being faithful to us, even when we are not faithful to Him.

Sing together “Rest in His Promise.”

- Bibles
- “Joseph Sent to Egypt” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

**LEADER** • Our story today comes from Genesis 37; 39–41.

Let’s turn there in our Bibles. Our story is about Joseph and how **God used Joseph’s suffering for good**. Let’s listen to our story and see what happens.

Open your Bible to Genesis 37. Show the video, or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

**LEADER** • ***What can stop God’s plan? Nothing can stop God’s perfect plan.*** Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery, which probably seemed like a terrible, hopeless situation for Joseph. The Bible tells us that God was with Joseph. God gave Joseph favor with Potiphar, who was Joseph’s master, and Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all of his household. Then, Joseph was accused of something he didn’t do and was thrown into jail.

Even in jail, God was with Joseph. God gave Joseph favor with the jail keeper, who put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners. God also gave Joseph the power and wisdom to interpret a dream for Pharaoh’s cupbearer, who was also in jail at the time. Years later, Joseph had an opportunity to

interpret a dream for Pharaoh. God was working His perfect plan all along. The dream told that there would be a famine in the land, and many people would be without food. Because Joseph interpreted the dream, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of preparing for this famine. They would have plenty of food, and God would ultimately save many people's lives including God's people's lives because of what had happened to Joseph. Without the suffering Joseph experienced, God's people would not have survived the famine. **God used Joseph's suffering for good.**

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did the brothers do to Joseph? (*They were going to kill him and then decided to throw him into a pit. Then, they decided to sell him as a slave; Genesis 37:18-28*)
2. How did Joseph end up in prison? (*He was accused of something he didn't do and was thrown into prison, Genesis 39:19-20*)
3. What was Joseph able to do for Pharaoh while in Egypt? (*He interpreted Pharaoh's dream; Genesis 41:15-16,25-32*)
4. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

## Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • Sometimes our lives don't quite go as we expect, but we can trust that God is in control like He was in control of Joseph's life. Let's watch our video and see what we might do if we were in a situation like Nigel.

• "Unit 3, Session 3"  
discussion starter video

Show the “Unit 3, Session 3” video.

**LEADER •** Can you imagine moving to another country?

What would you do if you were Mia or Carlos?

Joseph moved to another country without his family.

He had to learn a new culture, and I’m sure it was very difficult. Still, God was working out His plan.

***What can stop God’s plan? Nothing can stop God’s perfect plan.***

### **The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me (optional)**

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

### **Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)**

Show the big picture question poster.

**LEADER •** God used Joseph’s suffering for good. Let’s say the big picture question together. ***What can stop God’s plan? Nothing can stop God’s perfect plan.***

God is working a perfect plan, and we can trust that all will turn out as He has planned!

Before transitioning to small groups, make any necessary announcements. Lead kids in prayer. Thank God for having a perfect plan that cannot be stopped. Ask God to help kids trust Him, even when they go through difficult circumstances.

### **Dismiss to small groups**

• Big Picture Question  
Poster

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

# Small Group LEADER

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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- construction paper
- scissors (kid-sized)
- plastic bags, 1 per kid
- markers

Guide kids to cut a sheet of construction paper into 10 to 12 strips. Explain that they will write a few words of the key passage on each strip. Guide them to place the strips in order, mix them up, and try to put them in order again. Send the strips home in a ziplock plastic bag so that kids can continue practicing the key passage throughout the week.

**SAY** • Even when Joseph felt alone, God was still with him. God always keeps His promise. God is also with us through the Holy Spirit. We do not have to fear because we are never alone.

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Slide or Poster

**SAY** • **God used Joseph's suffering for good.** He blessed many people through Joseph and saved people's lives who would not have had food during the famine. Joseph's situation seemed bad, but God used it for good! Let's review our story.

Explain that kids will squat down on the floor and will jump up when they know the answer to the questions.

Ask the following review questions:

1. How many sons did Jacob have? (12, *Genesis 37:9*)

2. What did Jacob give Joseph that made his brothers jealous? (*a colorful robe, Genesis 37:3-4*)
3. What did Joseph's brothers do to him? (*They sold him into slavery and told their father Joseph had died, Genesis 37:18-28*)
4. Why was Joseph thrown in jail? (*He was a servant at Potiphar's house and was accused of doing something he did not do, Genesis 39:19-20*)
5. Whom did Joseph meet in jail that would later tell Pharaoh about Joseph? (*Pharaoh's cupbearer, Genesis 40:5; 41:9-13*)
6. What was the dream that Joseph interpreted for Pharaoh? (*Seven fat cows were eaten by seven skinny cows, and seven fat heads of grain were eaten by seven thin heads. This meant there would be seven years of plenty then seven years of famine; Genesis 41:17-32*)
7. What did Pharaoh do when Joseph interpreted his dream? (*He made Joseph second-in-command, Genesis 41:37-41*)

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Where did Joseph travel?

**SAY** • We are going to take a journey around the room.

I want you to fold your paper in half and bring a marker with you. Let's review the story and draw our own map of what happened in Joseph's life.

Travel around the room, stopping to discuss each place that Joseph went. Discuss when he lived in Canaan and his brothers sold him into slavery. Guide kids to draw a house and write *home* on one side of their paper. Then, walk to another area of the room and talk about Joseph's time at Potiphar's house in Egypt. Guide kids to draw a house on

LOW PREP

- paper
- markers

the opposite side of the paper, with dotted lines connecting the two. Kids may write *Potiphar's house* under the new house they drew. Travel again, and discuss the jail where Joseph was kept after Potiphar's wife lied about him. Travel again and tell kids that Joseph became second-in-command in Egypt and lived at Pharaoh's palace after he was in jail. Everywhere Joseph went, God gave him favor and was with him.

**SAY • God used Joseph's suffering for good.** Each place Joseph moved led him to Pharaoh's palace, where he would help many people have food for the seven years of famine that would soon come. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan!***

#### **OPTION 2:** Chain reaction

- Random items like blocks, bouncy balls, paper, tape, straws, and so forth

Form groups of 4 or 5 kids. Explain that each group will create a machine that is powered by a chain reaction. Provide kids with multiple items to use for building such as blocks, bouncy balls, tape, paper, and so forth. Travel between groups helping them develop their "machines."

**SAY •** When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they set off a chain reaction for Joseph. Even when his situation was difficult, God was able to do big things through Joseph. If Joseph's brothers had not sold him into slavery and Joseph had not ended up in prison, he would not have had a chance to interpret Pharaoh's dream. God used Joseph to save many people's lives who would not have had food when the famine came. **God used Joseph's suffering for good.**

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of time that was difficult. Writers may write about that time. Remind kids that Joseph faced many difficult situations, but God was always with him. Nothing could stop God's perfect plan for Joseph.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids

**SAY • *Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.*** Even when we are suffering, God can use those situations for good. What are some ways that He might do that? (*A hard time that we experience might point someone to Him; we might get to share about why we still have hope even when hard times come; and so forth.*)

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Thank God for His perfect plan that can even use suffering for good. Pray that God would give kids strength to trust Him, no matter the circumstance. Before releasing kids to parents, give each child this week's big picture card to review throughout the week.

# Journal Page

## God the Covenant-Keeper

**Key Passage:** Genesis 26:24

**Big Picture Question:** What can stop God's plan?  
Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

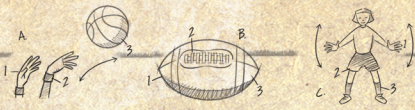
**Session 1:** The Stolen Blessing  
*Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45*  
Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

**Session 2:** Jacob's New Name  
*Genesis 32-33*  
God changed Jacob's name to Israel,  
the name of God's covenant people.

**Session 3:** Joseph Sent to Egypt  
*Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57*  
God used Joseph's suffering for good.

**Session 4:** Joseph's Dreams Came True  
*Genesis 42:1-46:34; 50:15-21*  
God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish  
a remnant.

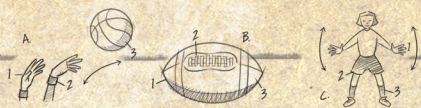




**“I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your offspring because of My servant Abraham.”**

Genesis 26:24

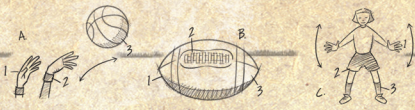




**I am the God of  
Abraham thy father:  
fear not, for I am with  
thee, and will bless  
thee, and multiply thy  
seed for my servant  
Abraham's sake.**

Genesis 26:24

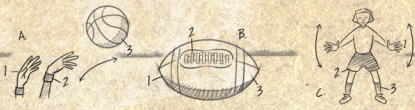




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Genesis 26:24



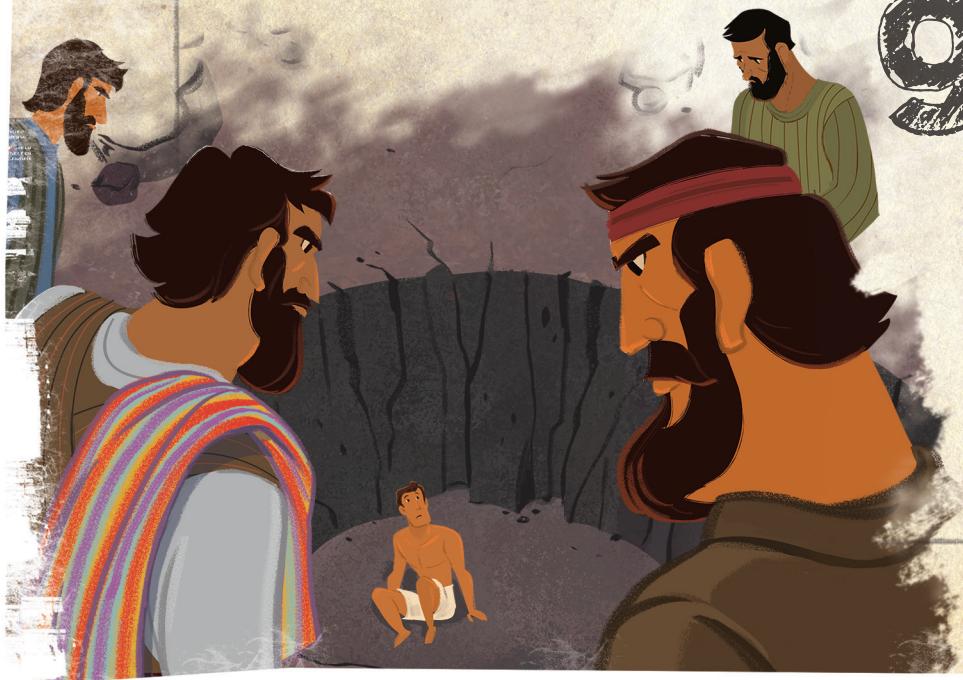


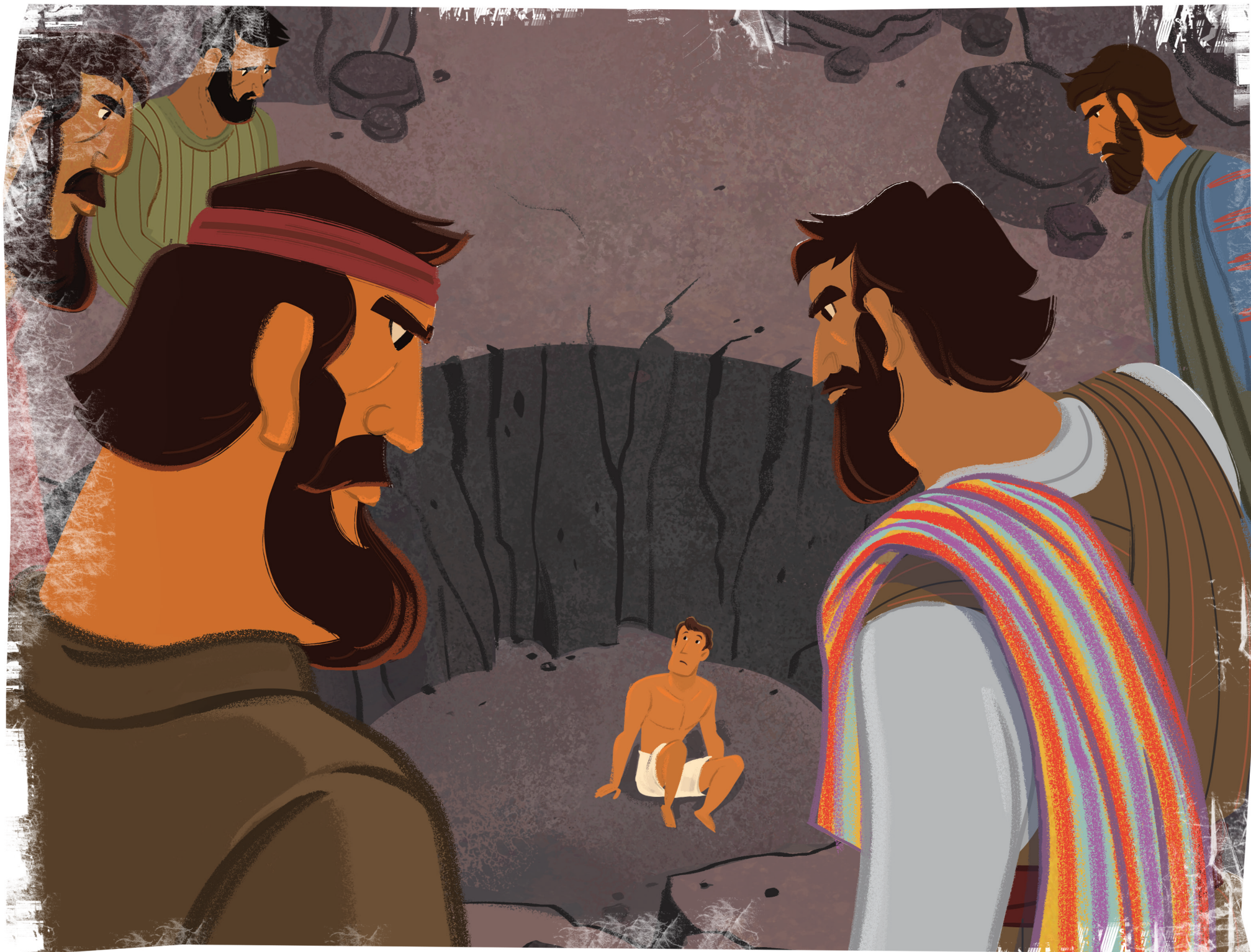
**“I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”**

**Genesis 26:24**



God used  
Joseph's  
suffering for  
good.





DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**KEY PASSAGE:** Genesis 26:24

- What can stop God's plan?  
Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

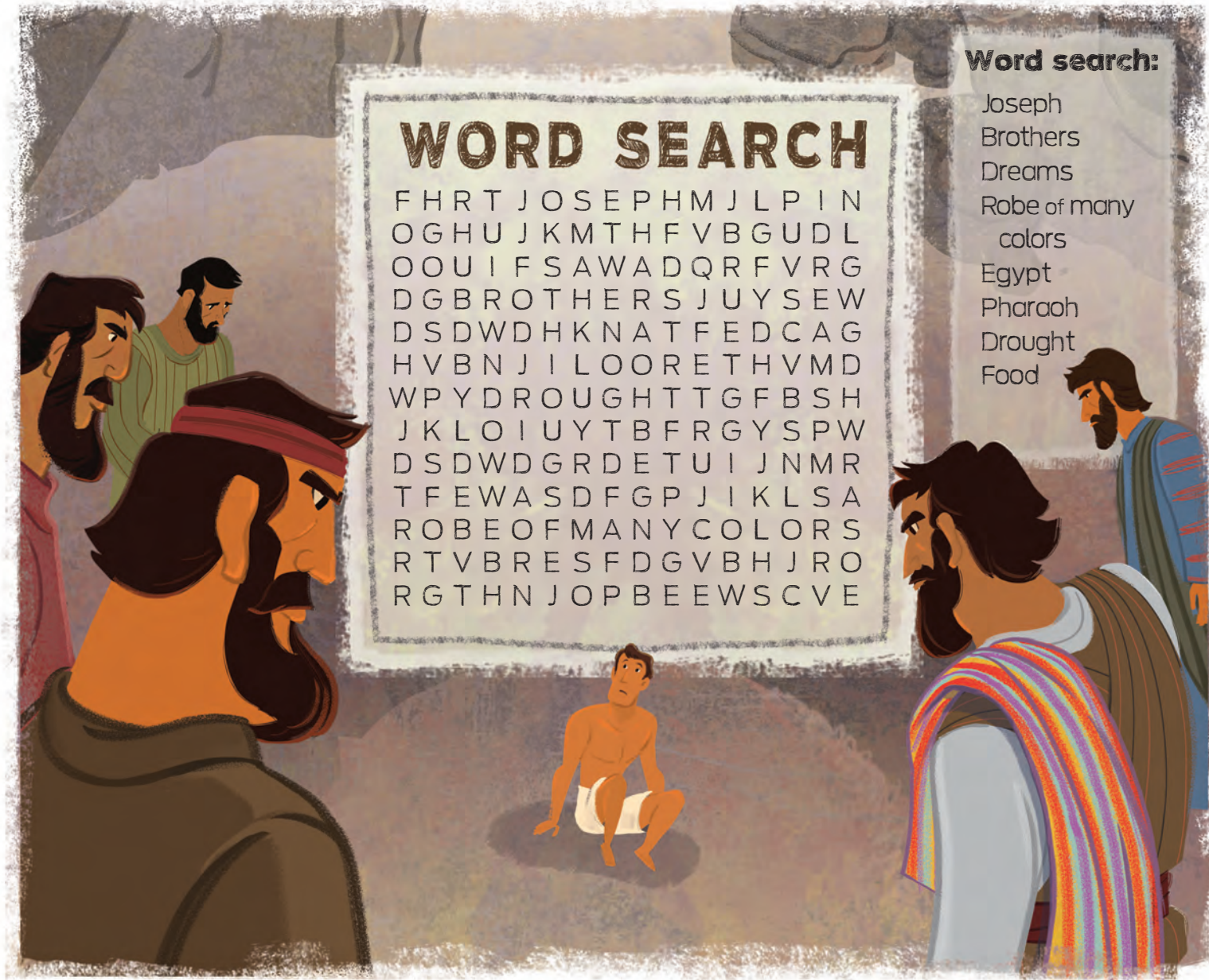
## JOSEPH SENT TO EGYPT

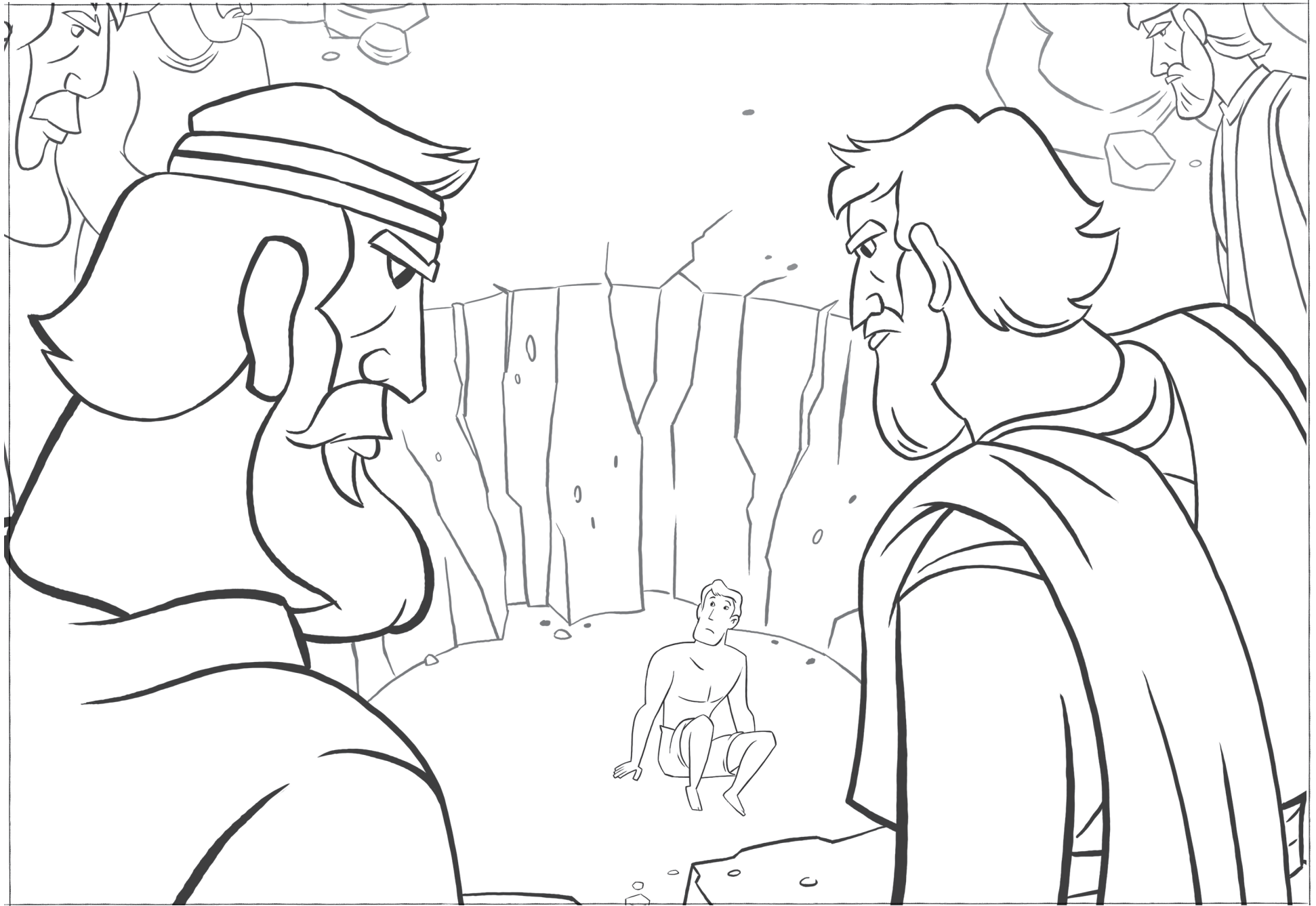
- Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave, and he was taken to Egypt.
- Joseph ended up in jail with Pharaoh's cupbearer, who later told Pharaoh about Joseph.
- God showed Joseph what Pharaoh's dreams meant.
- Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of collecting and storing grain.

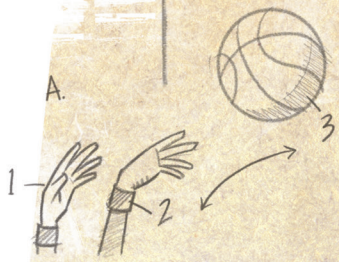
- Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
- Have you ever been jealous?
- How is Jesus like Joseph? (*Both of them were betrayed by people close to them.*)

- Think of a family going through a tough time. Spend time praying for them as a family.
- Go further: Serve a family by running their errands, dropping off a meal, or raking their yard.

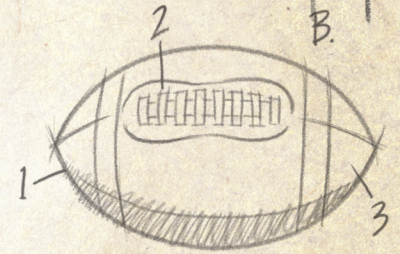
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# What can stop God's plan?



# What can stop God's plan?

Nothing can stop  
God's perfect  
plan.

