

CHARACTER STUDY - JOSEPH

A Success Story

What Is Success?

Dictionary: *An event that accomplishes its intended purpose*



Two Facts About Life

Things don't always go as
planned

Success does not depend on
the right circumstances

Genesis 37:1-11

- 1 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.*
- 2 This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.*
- 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.*
- 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*
- 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.*

- 6 *He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:*
- 7 *We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."*
- 8 *His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.*
- 9 *Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."*
- 10 *When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"*
- 11 *His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

Rejected By Family



Gen 37:4

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.



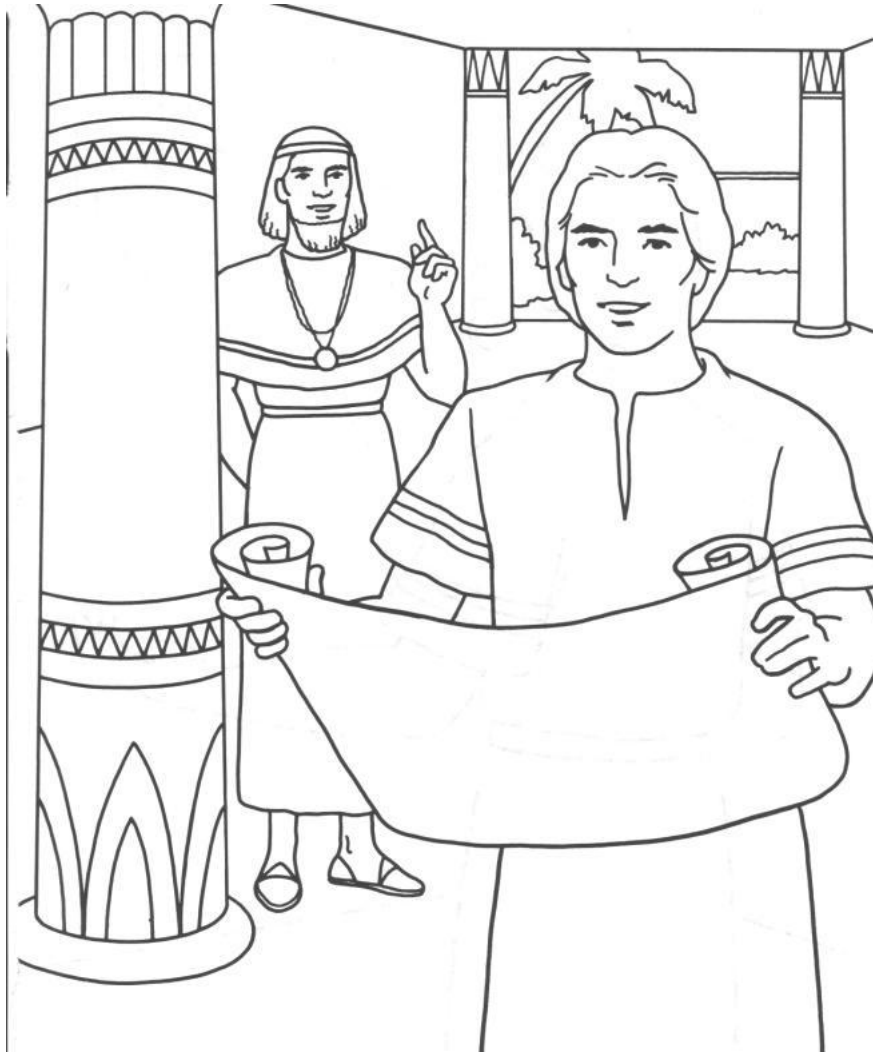
Gen 37:24

and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Seduced & Slandered

Gen 39:1-16

- 1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.*
- 2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.*
- 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,*
- 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.*
- 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.*



6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,

- 7 *and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"*
- 8 *But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.*
- 9 *No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"*
- 10 *And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*
- 11 *One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.*
- 12 *She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.*
- 13 *When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,*
- 14 *she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.*
- 15 *When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."*
- 16 *She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.*

Forgotten By Friends

Gen 40:14

But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison.

Gen 40:23

The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Joseph Ultimately Succeeded Because ...

- He was trustworthy
 - He Maintained His Integrity
- He Trusted God's Sovereignty