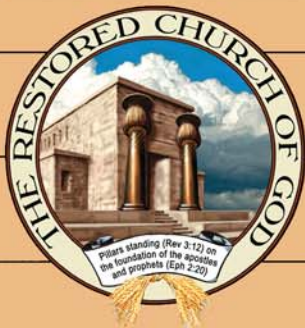


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



The Life of Joseph



LEVEL 1
LESSON 9

The Life of Joseph

From a very young age, Joseph lived an adventurous and fascinating life. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, the first son from Rachel. Remember from the last Lesson that Joseph's older brothers were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, Dan and Naphtali. Their youngest brother was Benjamin. Also remember that Jacob had two wives, Leah and Rachel. Jacob favored Rachel. Since Joseph was his firstborn from her, Jacob favored Joseph over his other sons. Because of this, Joseph's older brothers were very jealous. Jealousy is when someone does not like the good things that another person gets and envies them. God does not like jealousy. It makes someone do things that disobey God, such as murder or steal.

When Joseph was a teenage boy, his father made a special coat for him to wear. It was a coat of many colors. Joseph felt uplifted when he wore his new coat, but his brothers did not like it. They were jealous.

One day, Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers. He said, "I dreamt we were binding sheaves of wheat, and yours bowed down to mine." His brothers were not pleased, saying, "We will *never* bow down to him." Joseph had a second dream in which the sun and moon bowed to him. His brothers' hatred grew when they heard about this dream. Even his father was not happy to hear it.

After several days, Jacob asked Joseph to check up on his brothers. They had been tending sheep. Joseph set out to find them to make sure they were okay. He found them and was happy to see them. However, Joseph's brothers were not happy to see him. They said among themselves, "Let's get rid of him." So they threw Joseph into a pit. He was trapped and could not escape.

As the brothers were deciding what to do next, a caravan of travelers arrived. This gave the brothers the idea to sell Joseph as a slave. The men in the caravan were happy to purchase



Joseph for 20 shekels. They then brought him to Egypt. He was sold again as a slave to a man named Potiphar.

Reuben, the oldest of the 12 brothers, was away when the others sold Joseph. He was angry at what his brothers did. He was worried about what they would tell their father. They came up with a heartless plan to take Joseph's coat and smear it with blood. Their father thought a lion killed Joseph. Believing Joseph was dead, Jacob was heartbroken.

While Jacob grieved, Joseph was a slave in Egypt. He worked for Potiphar, who was the captain of the king's guard. Joseph put his trust in God. He knew that God would take care

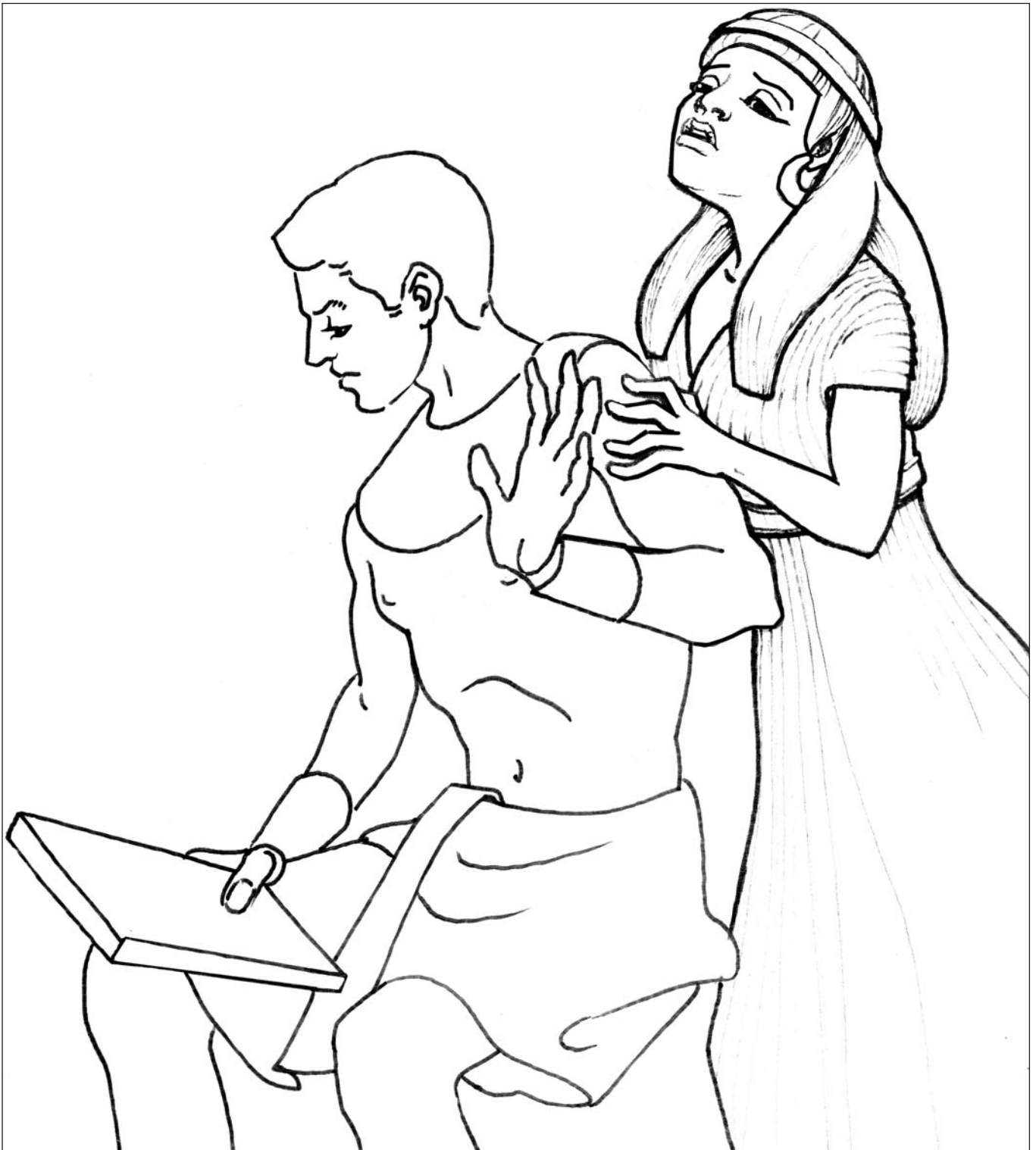


of him. Joseph did not ask for pity. Instead, he worked hard and did his job. His master was impressed. Potiphar's wife noticed Joseph was handsome.

Joseph grew to become the manager of all Potiphar's property. People looked up to Joseph. They said that things were better with him around. Joseph prayed to God everyday to help him.

One day, Potiphar's wife asked Joseph to come into her room. Joseph refused. So she took Joseph's robe as he was leaving. When Potiphar arrived, his wife began crying. She lied, saying, "Joseph tried to kiss me. I screamed and he ran off. Here is his robe." Potiphar was angry with Joseph and threw him into prison.





Joseph did not know what to do. He prayed to God for His help and deliverance. There were many prisoners. They fought over food and water. The keeper of the prison saw that Joseph was a leader. He put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners. God was with Joseph.

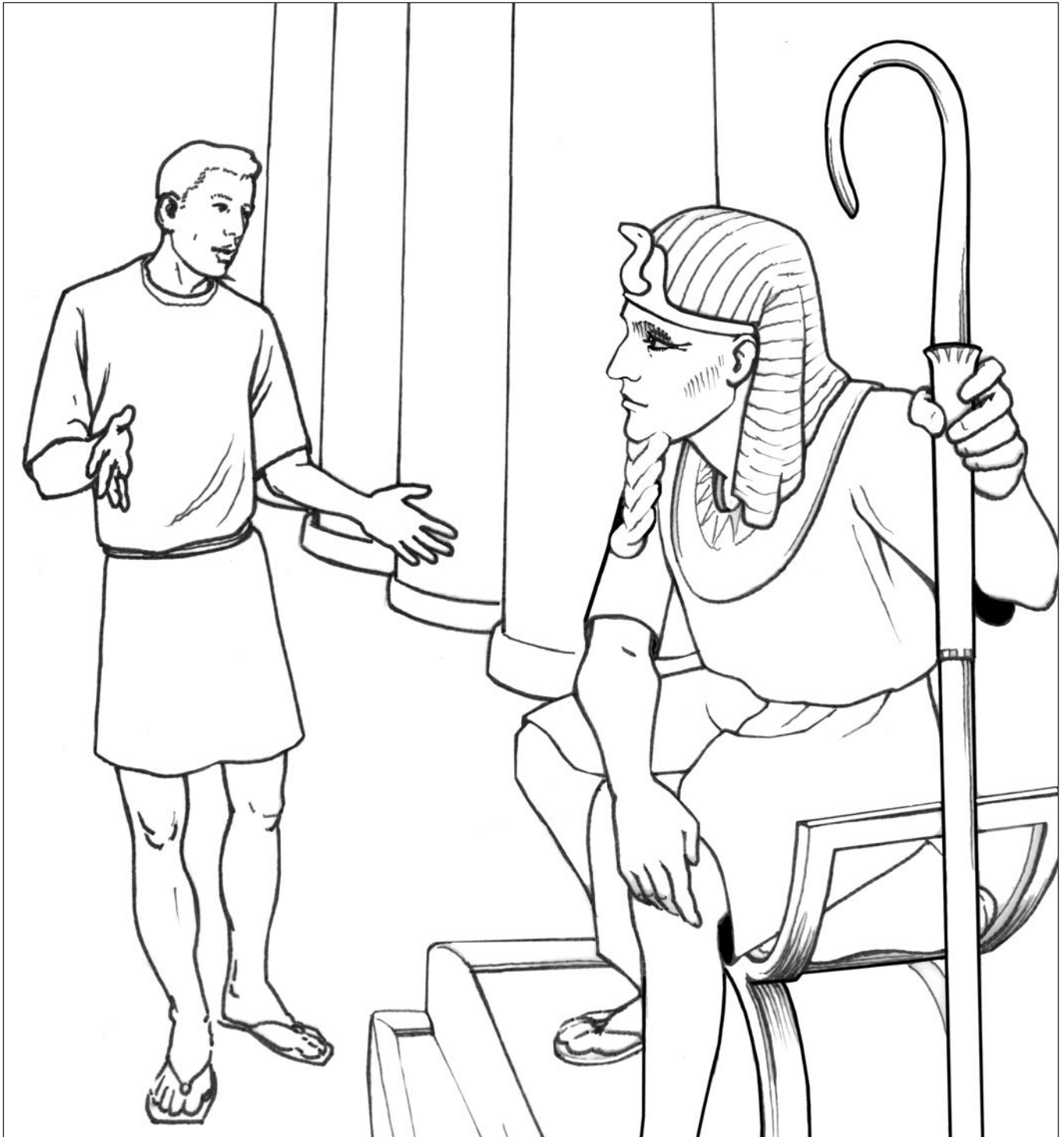
One day, the king's baker and butler were thrown into prison. That night, they both had dreams. Joseph came to help them. Because God was helping him, Joseph could understand the dreams. The butler's dream showed that he would be released in three days. The baker's dream showed that he would be hanged in three days. Three days later, both dreams came true.

Two years later, the king of Egypt had a strange dream. No one in the whole kingdom could tell what it meant. The butler remembered Joseph. The king called for Joseph, and the dream was interpreted: There would be seven years of plenty and then seven years of famine. Joseph advised the king to put an officer



in charge of storing grain for the famine. The king agreed and appointed Joseph to be in charge of the grain.

Joseph organized and gathered enough wheat over the seven years of plenty to feed Egypt during the seven years of famine. When the famine began, some foreigners came to buy food.



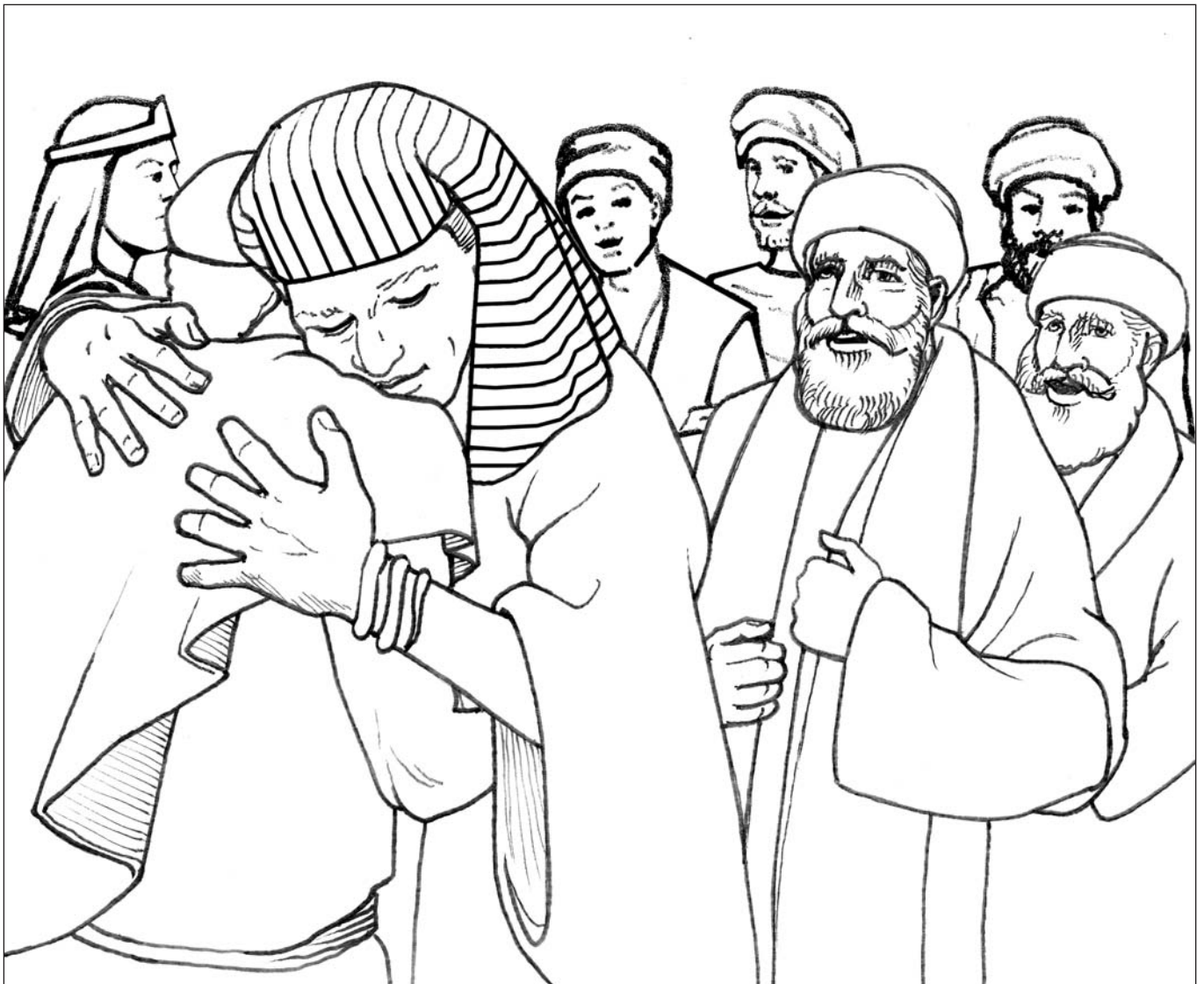
Joseph recognized them as his brothers! Joseph was now the governor of Egypt, so they did not recognize him. When they asked to buy grain, Joseph called them spies and put them in prison. After a few days, he released his brothers, except Simeon. Joseph demanded that Benjamin be brought to Egypt. The rest of the brothers returned home to their father and asked to bring Benjamin. Jacob was afraid to lose another son, but he finally agreed to send him to Egypt.

The brothers returned to Egypt with Benjamin after they received their grain. As they traveled home, a chariot raced up behind them. A soldier demanded to see their sacks of grain. In Benjamin's sack, they found Joseph's silver cup. All the brothers were taken back to Egypt to face the angry governor. Joseph threatened to keep Benjamin as his own slave. Joseph knew



that these men were his brothers. He did not want to harm them. He wanted to teach them a lesson. When he could no longer keep his identity a secret, Joseph told his brothers, with tears, “I am your brother Joseph. You sold me as a slave and God has blessed me greatly.” Joseph immediately showed mercy toward his brothers and asked about his father.

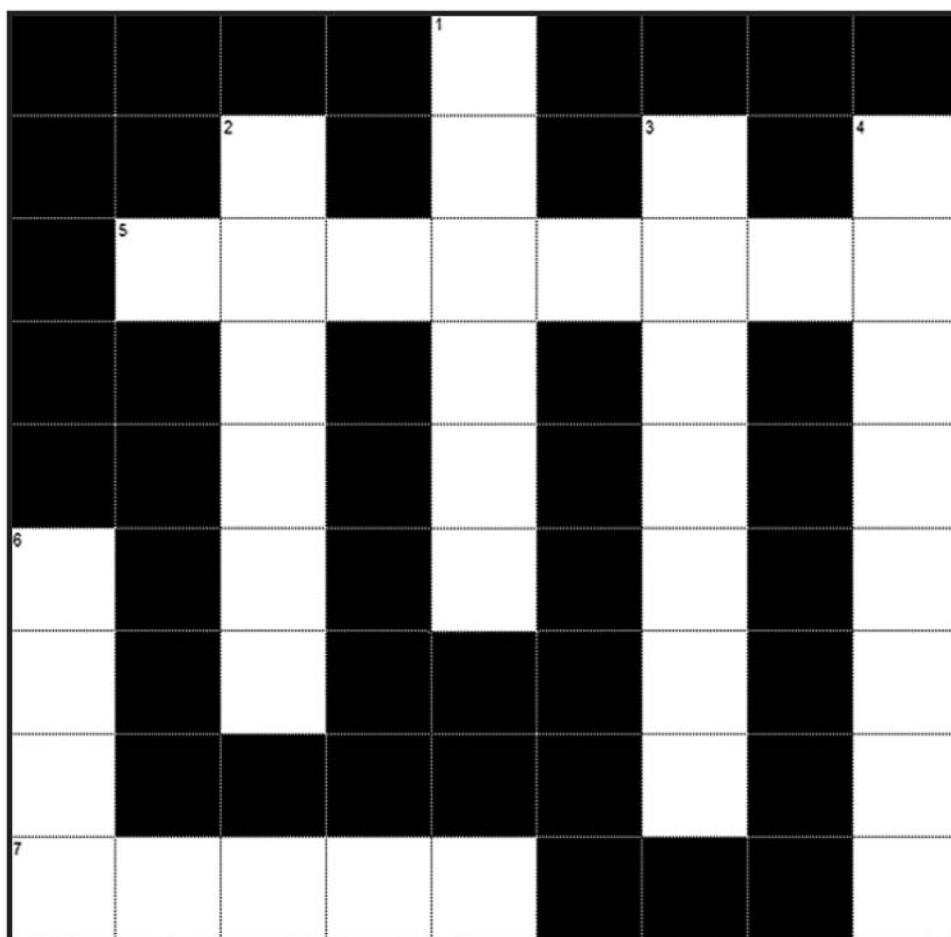
They traveled home to tell their father about Joseph. Jacob could hardly believe his ears. The whole family moved to Egypt, where there was enough food for all. God used Joseph to save his brothers’ lives. Joseph married and had two children, Manasseh and Ephraim.





BIBLE MEMORY: Genesis 50:20

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Here is a crossword puzzle using some big words found in the story. Have a parent help you put the words where they belong.

DOWN:

- 1) The place where Joseph was held for many years.
- 2) The name of the boy with the coat of many colors.
- 3) Joseph dreamed the _____ of his brothers bowed down to the one he had harvested.
- 4) Who came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.
- 6) What did Joseph's brothers do to get rid of him.

ACROSS:

- 5) The name of the man Joseph worked hard for.
- 7) A vision seen while sleeping.