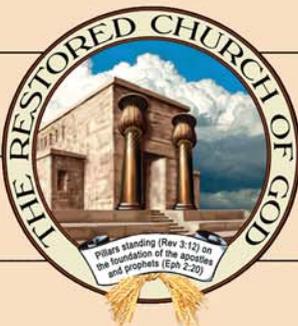


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



The Story of Joseph



LEVEL K  
LESSON 9

# The Story of Joseph

In the last Lesson, we learned that Jacob deceived his brother, Esau, out of the birthright. But eventually, Jacob learned to overcome his human nature. He also wrestled with God, and God blessed him and named him “Israel.”

Jacob finally moved back to Canaan, and lived there for quite some time. When he was older, he often relied on his sons to manage his herds. But Jacob continued his father’s error of favoring one child over the others. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son. This made his brothers jealous. Joseph told them he had dreams that he would one day rule over them. Joseph’s brothers grew to hate him.

Jacob made Joseph a very expensive coat of many colors. Usually, this type of gift was a rare honor, and reserved for the firstborn child. When Joseph’s brothers saw this, they knew that their father loved Joseph more than any of them.

One day, Jacob sent Joseph on an errand to report on his brothers’ herding activities. When his brothers saw him approaching, they were angry and started to plot against him. Some wanted to kill him, but Reuben knew that Jacob loved Joseph. He did not want to cause his father to be sad. Reuben suggested that they throw Joseph in an empty well and pretend to leave him there. When Joseph

arrived, they tore off his colorful coat and threw him in the pit. Then the brothers taunted and teased him about his dreams, and then left him alone. Joseph was really scared. He tried to climb the walls of the pit.

A group of Midianites approached the camp later that night. So the brothers sold Joseph into slavery. They then smeared Joseph's coat with the blood of a goat.

When the brothers went home, they told their father that all they had found was Joseph's coat. They said he must have been killed by wild animals. Jacob mourned his son for many days.

The Midianites who bought Joseph took him to Egypt and sold him to a man named Potiphar. God did not abandon Joseph in his trial as a slave. Joseph was successful in everything he did, and Potiphar noticed this. Potiphar gave Joseph authority and responsibility in his household. Joseph grew in his new role. The house of Potiphar prospered because of Joseph's wise management.

Potiphar's wife was not a noble woman. She noticed how Joseph had grown and matured into a handsome young man. Potiphar's wife wanted to be unfaithful to her husband. But Joseph obeyed and feared God. So he ran from her when she tried to get him alone. She ripped off Joseph's cloak as he ran from her. She told her husband a lie. She said that Joseph attacked her, and that she grabbed his cloak as he was leaving. Potiphar was incredibly angry. He had Joseph thrown into prison.

One day, Pharaoh was troubled by two strange dreams that he had the night before. The first dream was about seven fat cows being eaten by seven skinny cows. The sec-

ond dream was about seven fat ears of corn growing on one stalk and seven thin ears coming up and devouring them. Pharaoh asked all his wise men, magicians and fortune tellers to tell him what the dreams meant. But no one could. The dreams came from God. Only God could reveal them.

Joseph appeared before Pharaoh and said that he could reveal nothing. But God could tell him what the dreams meant. Joseph told Pharaoh that the dreams meant that Egypt would soon experience seven years of plenty. There would be good weather, lots of food and peace in the land. But then there would be seven years of very bad weather and famine. Everyone would be hungry and many would die. Pharaoh was upset.

Joseph told Pharaoh to make someone in charge of storing food for the hard times that were coming. Pharaoh thought that was a good idea. Joseph was made second-in-command of Egypt. Joseph stored grain in preparation for the upcoming famine. When the famine began, people would come to Joseph to buy the grain that he had saved.

As time passed, Joseph had his father and brothers and their families all come to live in Egypt. Jacob was overjoyed to see his son Joseph. He thought he had been killed.

Joseph got married and had two sons, Ephraim and Manassah. Before Jacob died, he blessed both of Joseph's sons. But the greater blessing went to the younger son, Ephraim.

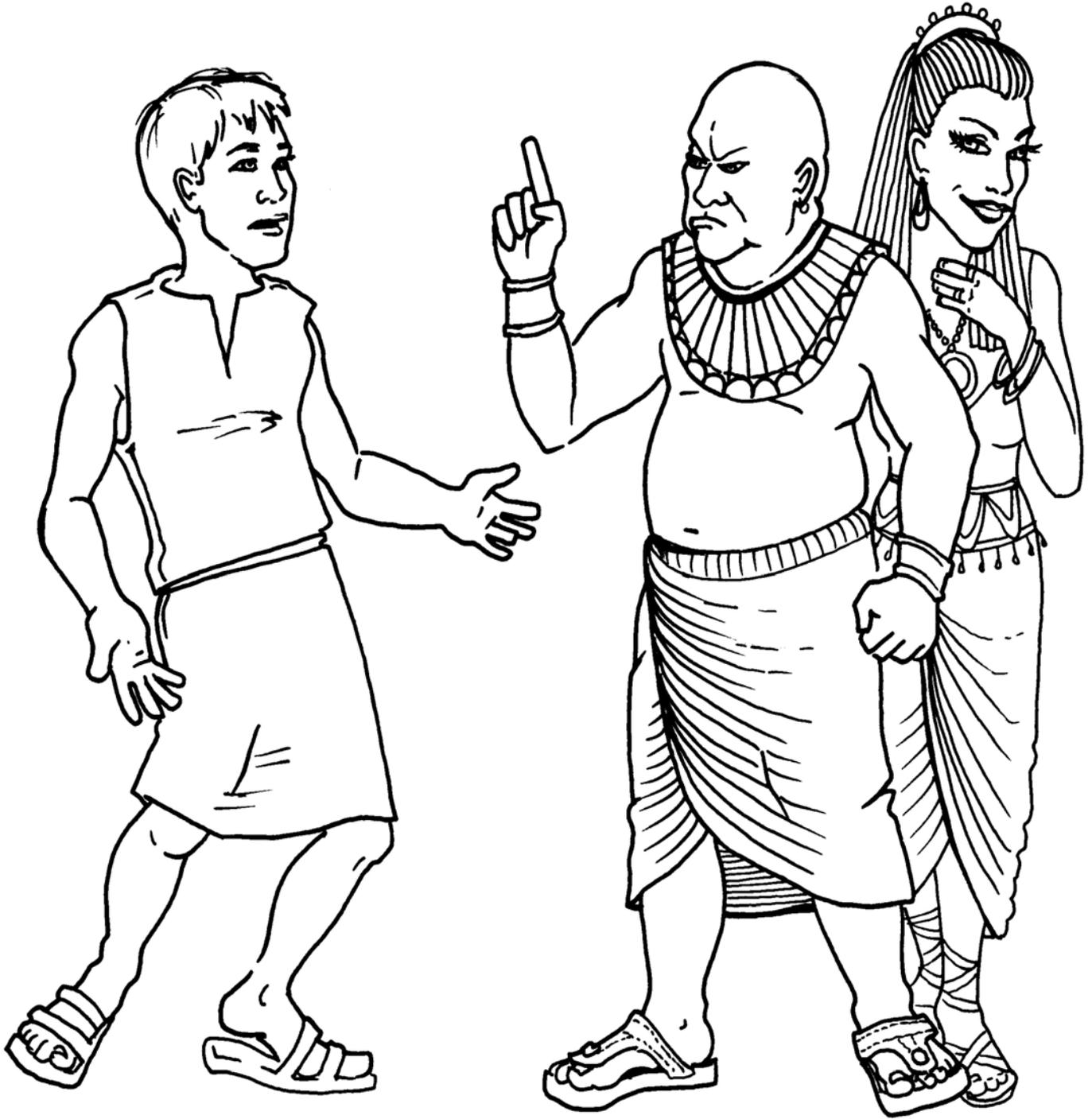
Joseph and his family continued to live in Egypt and increased in number. Joseph lived a long time and prospered in God's blessings. He died at the age of 110.



Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors.



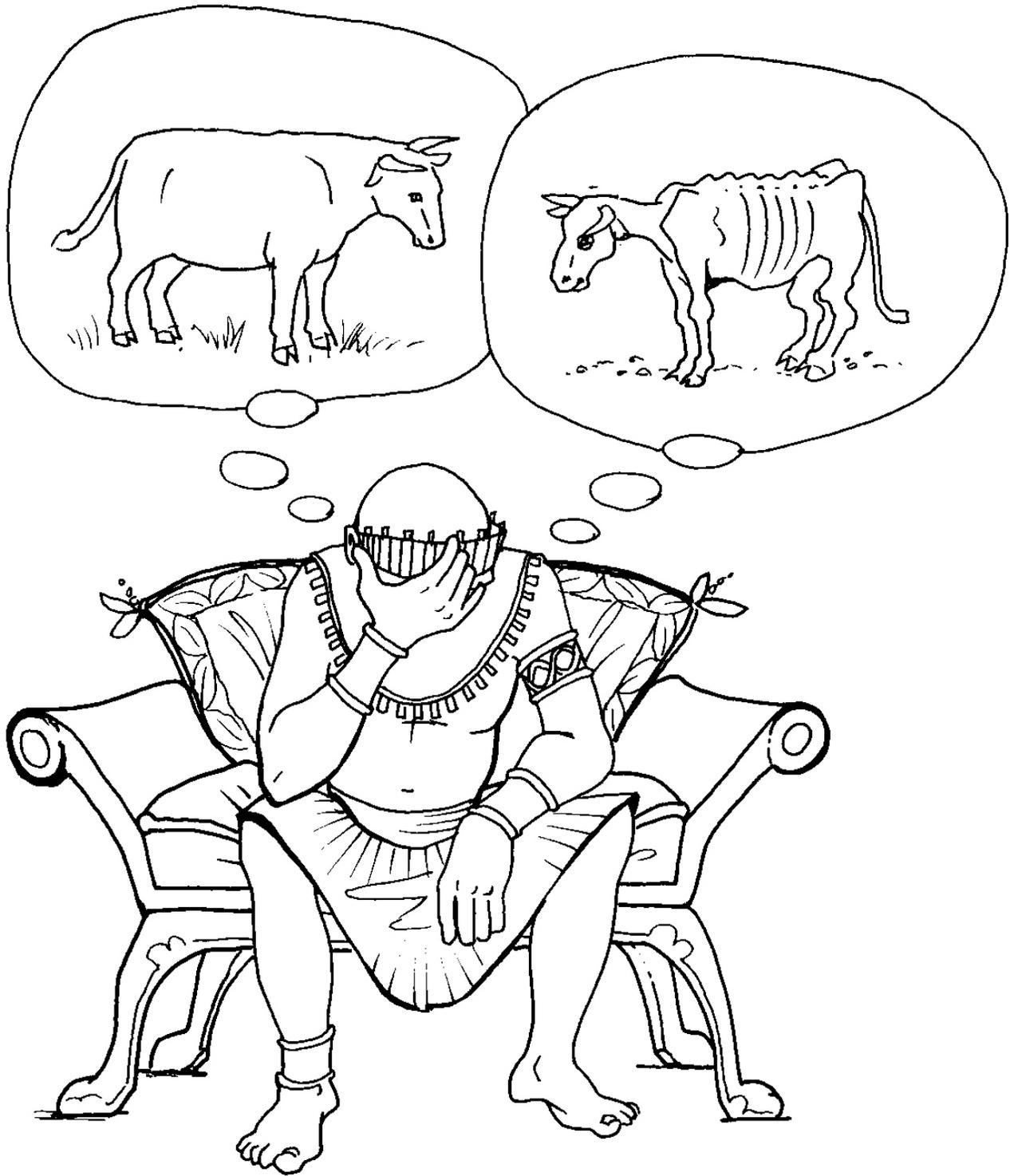
Joseph could not believe that his brothers would actually sell him to strangers.



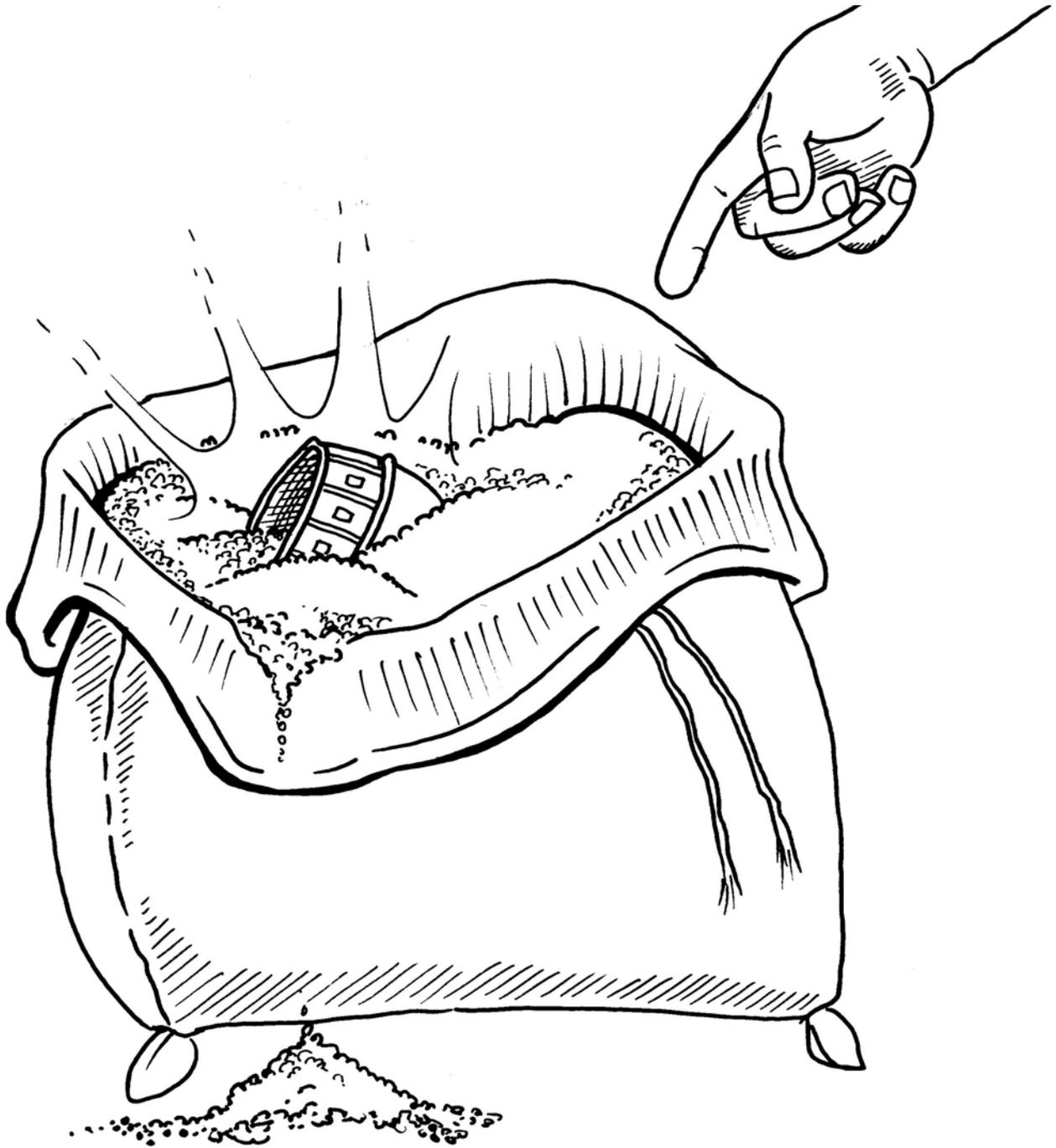
Joseph was punished for something he did not do.



Joseph listened to the butler and the baker. He correctly told them what their dreams meant. The butler was forgiven and returned to work for Pharaoh.



Pharaoh had a dream. Joseph told him what it meant. Pharaoh made Joseph second-in-command.



Joseph wanted a reason to make his brother Benjamin remain in Egypt. He hid a cup in Benjamin's bag to make Benjamin look like a thief.

Joseph could not keep his identity hidden any longer. He told Jacob's sons that he was their long lost brother, Joseph. He forgave them for what they had done and hugged them.



Published by The Restored Church of God.  
Printed in the USA; All rights reserved  
Copyright © 2006

**BIBLE MEMORY:** Genesis 45:15

## DESERT MAZE

Help Joseph's father, Jacob, and his brothers find their way to Egypt to buy grain.

Start here:

