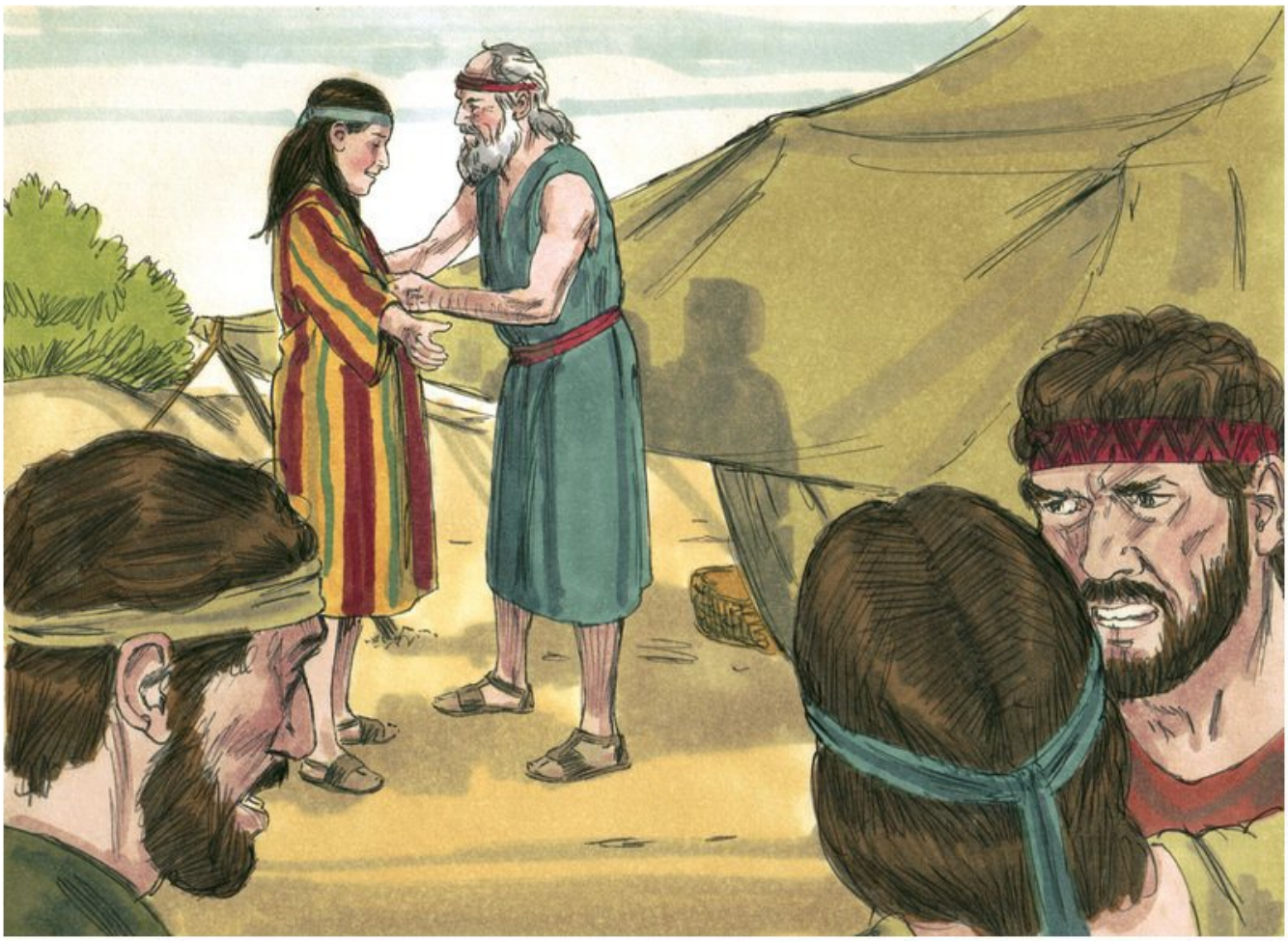
GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37:1-36



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jealousy and cruel choices brought deep hurt to Joseph's family.

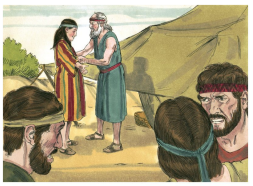
Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Jealousy Becomes Cruelty

Genesis 37:1-36



Joseph lived with his father Jacob and his brothers. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons and gave him a special coat. His brothers saw the favoritism and grew jealous. When Joseph told them dreams in which they bowed before him, their anger grew. The coat and dreams become signs around which the family's conflict gathers. The passage names the brothers' hatred and jealousy, while Jacob keeps Joseph's dream in mind after questioning him.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and the flocks. Joseph found them at Dothan. They saw him coming and planned to kill him. Reuben spoke against taking his life. Instead, they took away Joseph's coat and put him in an empty pit. Reuben suggests the pit because he intends to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. That intention differs from the brothers' harmful plan, though Joseph still ends up trapped.

Traders were traveling toward Egypt. Judah suggested selling Joseph instead of killing him. Joseph was taken from the pit and sold. The traders carried him away to Egypt, far from his father and home. There he was sold to Potiphar, an officer who served Pharaoh. The journey to Egypt is not Joseph's free choice. He is treated as property by people with power over him, and the story does not present that treatment as deserved.

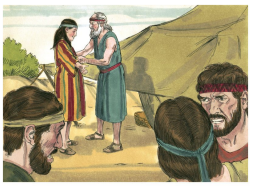
The brothers used Joseph's coat to deceive their father. They put a goat's blood on it and brought it to Jacob. Jacob believed a wild animal had killed his son, and he mourned deeply. Joseph was alive, but his family's cruel choices had separated them and caused great sorrow. The coat carries a false message because the brothers choose to conceal the truth. Jacob's sorrow is based on what he believes happened, while the reader knows Joseph remains alive.

Remember: When jealousy grows, I can seek help before I hurt someone.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Harm That Hiding Cannot Undo

Genesis 37:1-36



Joseph's two dreams use different pictures. In the first, the brothers' sheaves of grain bow toward his sheaf. In the second, the sun, moon, and eleven stars bow toward him. His father questions the meaning, and his brothers become more jealous. The narrative gives those responses, but it does not make the later cruelty Joseph's fault. Describing a family conflict is not the same as excusing violence.

When Jacob sends Joseph to find his brothers, Joseph first reaches Shechem. A man tells him that they have moved to Dothan, so he follows. The brothers see him coming from a distance and make their plan before he arrives. Reuben intervenes against killing him and hopes to bring him home. His attempt matters, even though it does not succeed in returning Joseph to his father during this passage.

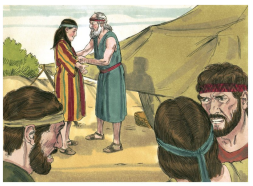
Judah's suggestion turns the plan toward selling Joseph. Traders traveling to Egypt become part of the account, and Joseph is taken away. At the end of the chapter he has been sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. The narrative has moved him from a family household to enslavement in another country. That is a grave wrong, not an exciting trip he selected or a fitting punishment for receiving a special coat.

Meanwhile, the brothers make Jacob believe that his son has died. They use a real object, Joseph's coat, to support an untrue story. Jacob recognizes it and draws the conclusion they intend. His long mourning shows that hiding a wrong can create further harm for people who do not know what happened. The chapter ends with separated family members and truth concealed; it has not yet reached the later reunion readers may already know.

Pause and think: What could someone do with jealous feelings before those feelings turn into harmful actions?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Make Room to Speak Before Anger Grows



Jealousy is a feeling people can discuss before choosing what to do. You might feel jealous when someone receives more attention or an opportunity you wanted. Saying that you feel left out is different from harming the person who was chosen. With an adult, practice words that describe the feeling and ask for help without turning it into an accusation or a threat.

Think about the difference between knowing something and assuming it. Jacob sees a coat, but he does not see what happened to Joseph. In an ordinary classroom example, finding a broken pencil does not tell you who broke it or whether it was an accident. A careful question can help separate a fact from a conclusion before a false account spreads.

If someone hurts, threatens, or tries to control you, you deserve help. Nothing about receiving a gift, speaking awkwardly, or being someone else's favorite makes you responsible for their abuse. You can tell a safe adult even when the person causing harm asks for secrecy. Joseph's treatment should make us take protection and truthful reporting seriously, not teach us to hide suffering.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Joseph’s brothers make cruel choices, and their deception spreads the harm to their grieving father.

What could someone do with jealous feelings before those feelings turn into harmful actions?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why did the brothers feel jealous?

2. Was Joseph really dead when Jacob mourned?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jacob saw the stained coat and mourned.
- ☐ His brothers put him in a pit, and he was sold.
- ☐ Joseph received a special coat and told his dreams.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Joseph's special coat with patterns of your choice.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

When jealousy grows, I can seek help before I hurt someone.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Genesis 37:4-11

A thoughtful conversation

Joseph did not deserve abuse or enslavement. Explain that selling a person is wrong, and that favoritism can hurt a family without excusing the brothers' actions.

Activity answers

1. Their father favored Joseph, and Joseph described dreams of them bowing to him.
2. No. Joseph had been taken to Egypt.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me speak about jealous feelings and choose kindness.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Genesis 37:1-36. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 01_Ge_37_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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