



# Joseph



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# Who Was Joseph?

- ◆ There are four main characters in Genesis known as the Patriarchs. They are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. These are the pillars of the Israelites, the first four great leaders of the Jewish nation.
- ◆ After Abraham, none were firstborn.
- ◆ Isaac followed Ishmael, Jacob followed Esau, and Joseph was the 11th of 12.
- ◆ Yet, though they weren't firstborn, they were selected by God and given a trust as his first choice – the responsibility of an entire nation.

# Who Was Joseph?

- ◆ His story, in fact, is one of trust: how he trusted God in the face of great adversity and great success, and how God trusted him with great responsibility.
- ◆ It's a drama-filled life with incredible passion and tension, and it is played out on the stage of Genesis 37-50.



# Who Was Joseph?

◆ Read Genesis 35:22-29, and answer the following questions:

1) How many sons did Jacob have?

Twelve

2) Who was Jacob's father and how old was he when he died?

Isaac, 180 years old

3) What was the name of Joseph's brother?

Benjamin

# Who Was Joseph?

Mother	Son
Leah	Reuben Simeon Levi Judah
Bilhah (Rachel's maid)	Dan Naphtali
Zilpah (Leah's maid)	Gad Asher
Leah	Issachar Zebulun
Rachel	Joseph Benjamin

# Joseph as a young man

- ◆ Joseph was the firstborn of Jacob's favoured wife, Rachel & he was also Jacob's favourite son.
- ◆ His brothers hated him because he was their father's most loved son.
- ◆ As a young man (about 17 years of age), Joseph had some very interesting dreams...
  - Read Genesis 37:1-11
- ◆ After his brothers heard this dream, they hated him even more!



# Joseph as a young man

- ◆ His brothers' hatred for him drove them to scheme against him.
- ◆ They wanted to kill him, but Reuben the oldest brother, told them not to kill him, but cast him into a pit instead.
- ◆ As they sat down for a meal, they saw some travelling merchants and decided to sell Joseph to them
  - Who else was sold by those closest to him?
- ◆ The merchants took Joseph to sell him to the Egyptians. Meanwhile, his brothers took Joseph's coloured coat and covered it with blood... Telling their father that he had been killed by a wild beast.

# Did you....

- ◆ ...ever wish you had come from a different family?
- ◆ Are there things about your family you wish were different?
- ◆ If your answer is “Yes!”, then you are not alone!
- ◆ Think about how Joseph might have felt about his family when his brothers threw him into the pit.... And then sold him to the merchants.





# How does Joseph's story relate to me?



- ◆ Often, we think that people who have depth, character and integrity have a perfect family with wonderful parents, but as we shall see, Joseph had great integrity and character despite his family situation...
- ◆ Is there something that a family member (maybe a brother or sister) has done to you that hurts you?
- ◆ Taking Joseph as an example, think about how you can forgive this person from your heart.

# In Egypt...

- ◆ Read Gen. 39:1-20
- ◆ Summarise what has just happened...
- ◆ Someone who has 'character' is often referred to as someone who has been tested, and had great strength in the face of temptation.
- ◆ What was Joseph's reaction to Potiphar's wife?
- ◆ He didn't want to sin.... but God hadn't even given His people the 10 commandment yet!

# In Egypt...

- ◆ He knew that to do what Potiphar's wife wanted was not right in God's eyes, even if the people around him told him that it was OK to do so.
- ◆ Just as Joseph ran, to flee temptation, we need to do the same, especially when it comes to temptation that could compromise our purity.
- ◆ No matter what TV shows, movies, social media and the experts of the world tell us is OK, we live by the word that God has given us and not what the world says.
- ◆ Even though he was thrown into prison unjustly, Joseph knew that he was right before God



# More dreams...

- ◆ The Pharaoh's baker and butler (cup-bearer) both displeased Pharaoh and they were thrown into prison after Joseph.
- ◆ While in prison they had dreams, which Joseph was able to interpret for them.
- ◆ Read Genesis 40:9-23





# More dreams...

- ◆ After they were released from prison, they forgot about Joseph, until Pharaoh had his own dreams that troubled him.
- ◆ No one could help Pharaoh interpret his dreams, until finally the butler remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream for him in prison...
- ◆ Read Genesis 41:14-36



# The famine begins...

- ◆ And who was the discerning & wise man that Pharaoh put in charge?

JOSEPH!!!



- ◆ A few years after that, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt, because they were quickly running out of grain & they heard that there was plenty of it in Egypt...

# Joseph saw his brothers

- ◆ And accused them of being spies.
- ◆ He sent them back to Jacob, keeping one of the brothers in Egypt to ensure that they would come back with Benjamin.
- ◆ Jacob did not want to send Benjamin to Egypt as he was the only one of Rachel's sons left.
- ◆ Eventually, Jacob let Benjamin go with his brothers to Egypt.
- ◆ And this is what happened when they return...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVEtBeVtgwE>



# The family was reunited

- ◆ When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, he sent them back to Jacob again, this time to bring the whole family with them to Egypt, as there were still 5 more years of famine to go.
- ◆ Jacob agreed to go with his sons and the rest of the family to Egypt where Joseph was, and Pharaoh promised to give them the best of the land.



# The family was reunited

- ◆ Because Joseph trusted God throughout his life, remained pure and did not waiver from his beliefs, God gave him a double-blessing: two tribes among the twelve tribes of Israel.
- ◆ The Levites did not have a land to call their own as they were the priests of the Jewish nation and they relied on God as their inheritance.
- ◆ So, the Levites were not counted in the twelve tribes, but both of Joseph's sons were.

Name the two tribes of Israel that were named after Joseph's sons



## Twelve Tribes of Israel

Manasseh	Asher
Naphtali	Zebulun
Issachar	Gad
Ephraim	Dan
Benjamin	Reuben
Simeon	Judah

# Some questions...

- ◆ What can we learn from Joseph?
- ◆ Did God have a plan for Joseph's life?
- ◆ Do you think God has a plan for your life?
- ◆ What are some similarities between Joseph's life & the life of Jesus?