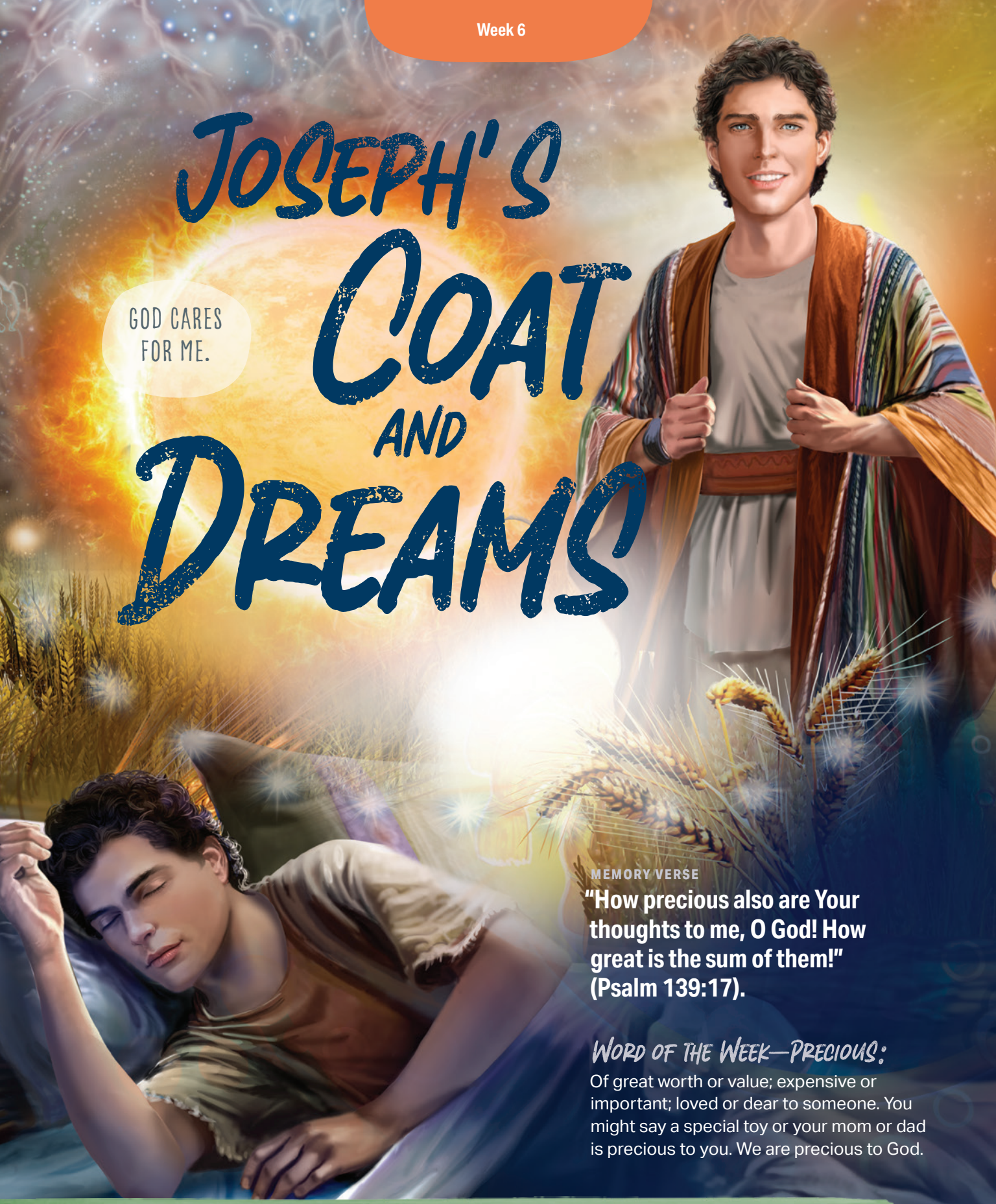
Joseph's Coat and Dreams

GOD CARES FOR ME.



MEMORY VERSE

"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17).

Word of the Week—Precious:

Of great worth or value; expensive or important; loved or dear to someone. You might say a special toy or your mom or dad is precious to you. We are precious to God.

This week's lesson is based on Genesis 35:16-20; 37:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 208-210; *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 100, 101; and *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 428, 429. **Extra Reading:** *The Bible Story*, vol. 2, pp. 40-43.

SUNDAY

Home Again!

The rock made a soft thud as Jacob gently placed it on the top of the other stones. His altar to God was finished. Here, in this place called Bethel, he would worship His loving God. Jacob had so much to thank Him for! God had brought him safely back to his homeland in Canaan.

Jacob wanted his whole family to worship God too. He told them, "He has helped me during my time of trouble. He has helped me everywhere I have gone" (Genesis 35:3, ICB).

God would also help him here. He appeared to Jacob and spoke to His friend. What did God say? **Read Genesis 35:11, 12.**

With God's promises fresh in his mind, Jacob traveled on. Not long after, something very sad happened—Mother Rachel died after giving birth to a son. With tears in his eyes Father Jacob named him Benjamin. What a precious treasure he would be to old Jacob.

Jacob shared his sorrow with his son Joseph, who, like little brother Benjamin, now had no mother. They would always be close. God was close to them too as they sadly buried Rachel.

God can also comfort our sad and hurting hearts when we lose someone we love. The Bible says, "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart" (Psalm 34:18). Jesus promises, "Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

After this time of sadness came a very happy day. Jacob made it home to Hebron and saw his dear father again! Imagine the happy tears as he hugged old Father Isaac once more.

Happiness and sadness had made their way in and out of Jacob's life—as they do for everyone. But through it all, Jacob learned how much God cared for him. Would his 12 sons learn this too?

Think . . . Then Talk About It:

- *God didn't just speak to Jacob, He appeared to him. Why do you think He did this? Why did God do it then?*
- *God's promises can encourage us in hard times too. What promise might you share with someone who is sad?*

Pray: Thank God for caring for you through happy and hard times.

Do: Make a card to encourage someone who is sad. You may like to also write your memory verse in it.



MONDAY

The Truthful Brother

A gentle breeze blew across the fields and through Jacob's cluster of tents. Joseph hurried to dress for the day. His brothers would be waiting with their flocks in the fields. There was always work to be done on their big farm in Hebron. Joseph grabbed his staff and ran to meet them.

Joseph was a teenager now. He had grown up listening to Father Jacob's stories of God's love and care. He had also chosen to be God's friend and to obey Him. This made him happy and honest.

His 10 older brothers didn't much care for the ways of God. They were often rough, rude, and careless. Their lies had caused lots of trouble with their neighbors.

Out in the fields, Joseph noticed the bad things his brothers said and did. He felt sad to see them sinning against God. What did Joseph do about it? Read Genesis 37:2.

It must have been hard to stand before his father and say those words. He knew his father would be so disappointed. And his brothers would be very angry with him. But Joseph courageously told the truth.

God can give us the courage to be honest and have integrity too. Integrity means doing what's right, even when no one is looking. God cares about the choices we make and wants to see us grow to be like Him. The Bible says, "Doing what is right brings freedom to honest people" (Proverbs 11:6, ICB). Joseph learned this lesson early. It would help him all through his life.

Think . . . Then Talk About It:

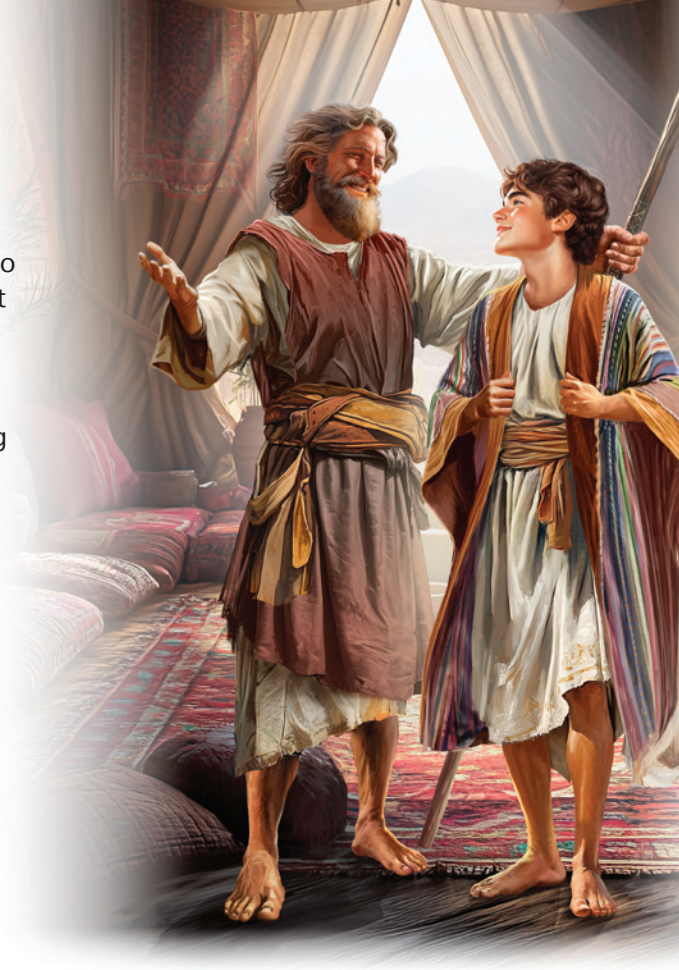
- *Have you ever had to make a hard choice like Joseph and tell a teacher or parent about something that was wrong? Share about it with your family.*
- *What do you think helped Joseph? What can help you?*

Pray: Ask God to give you the courage and wisdom you need to do the right thing.

Do: God has so many precious thoughts toward you. Share your thoughts with God by writing Him a letter. Add a picture, thought bubbles, or anything that you'd share with your best friend.

TUESDAY

A Beautiful Coat



Father Jacob smiled with pride as he carefully carried his gift to Joseph's tent. The bright colors of the beautifully woven coat shone brilliantly in the sunshine. What a precious present this would be for his son!

Most shepherd boys wore a plain, short-sleeved shirt and a simple leather belt. But Jacob wanted to give his son something that showed his love. Jacob chose brightly colored yarn. Then he wove the thread carefully together to make a vibrant, long-sleeved robe, like rich and important people wore.

Joseph was so excited to receive his father's gift. He hugged the coat to his chest. It was stunning! Carefully, he put it on and showed his beaming father.

Joseph must have smiled from morning to night as he walked around the fields and tents of home, wearing his gift of love.

His brothers couldn't help noticing, and they were far from happy. *They* didn't have beautiful robes like that! The Bible says, that Jacob "loved Joseph more than his other sons" (Genesis 37:3, ICB). Now, the older sons had proof of his favoritism. How did they react? *Read Genesis 37:4.*

The brothers no longer smiled at Joseph as they passed his tent. Out in the fields, with only the animals to hear, their mean words must have hit Joseph like stinging arrows.

God noticed and loved poor Joseph, and his jealous brothers. God doesn't play favorites. He offers the same super-generous gift of forgiveness and forever love to every person! God could help this family to heal and love. But they would need to trust Him.

Think . . . Then Talk About It:

- *What's something special your family may have done or given you to show they love you.*
- *How is God's love for us different from Jacob's love?*
- *What can you do when you feel jealous of what someone else has or if you feel upset by something that seems unfair? Read and discuss* ***Philippians 4:11, 12****.*

DO: Read **Proverbs 14:30** and draw something that represents the two messages in this verse.

MISSION CHALLENGE: Share some Alive in Jesus music or the podcast from Sabbath School with a friend.

PRAY: Thank God for His perfect gift of love for everyone. Be honest with Him about any problems you have and ask for His help and forgiveness.



WEDNESDAY

A Surprising Dream

Joseph lay his weary head down on his bed. All was quiet and still. No older brothers spoke cutting words to him or shot angry glares his way. He could talk to His loving God in peace, and he could rest. Soon he was fast asleep. In the night God sent Joseph a vivid dream. What happened in his dream? *Read Genesis 37:7.*

Joseph and his brothers sometimes worked together in the fields of Canaan, so even though the dream was strange, the setting was familiar. When God gives messages in dreams, He always uses a setting the dreamer can understand.

Joseph woke up and rubbed his eyes. What a surprising dream! He couldn't stop thinking about it. Scratching his head in wonder, he innocently went and told his brothers all about it: his sheaf of wheat standing tall, while all his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his sheaf.

His brothers stared back at their little brother and clenched their fists. Their cheeks flushed pink with anger. They were furious! They hotly replied, "Do you really think you will be king over us? Do you truly think you will rule over us?" (Genesis 37:8, ICB).

The brothers had been jealous. But now they were angry—*really* angry!

What the brothers didn't understand was that God had shared this special dream with Joseph. God cared about Joseph and had a very special plan for him. He was giving him a glimpse of the future. The Bible says, "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17).

God cares for you, and your future too!

Think . . . Then Talk About It

- *Read* ***Proverbs 3:5, 6.*** *How could this Bible verse help the different people in Joseph's family?*
- *Whom could you share this message with and why?*

Pray: Thank God for always having a big plan for our lives.

Fast Fact: In Bible times grain was cut by hand using a scythe. Once the stalks were cut, they were bound into sheaves, which were then bundled together to let the grain dry out. In summer 12 sheaves were stacked together (called a "shock").



THURSDAY

Dream Number Two

The stars twinkled above his tent as Joseph slept soundly below. Once again God sent him an amazing dream. Joseph awoke. The dream was still clear and real in his mind. It was amazing! Against a jet-black sky, 11 stars, the bright silver moon, and the fiery sun all bowed down to him.

The dream felt too big to keep to himself, so once again he shared it with his family.

How did his father respond? *Read Genesis 37:10,11.*

The meaning of the dream was clear to Jacob. It pointed to Joseph ruling over his whole family. Jacob believed God was showing Joseph something that would happen in the future. But Jacob spoke sharply to Joseph, for he knew the dream would upset Joseph's older brothers.

Jacob was right. "Joseph's brothers were jealous of him" (Genesis 37:11, ICB). The older brothers didn't trust in God's plans or wisdom. They let their jealous feelings grow into anger and rule over them.

Joseph quietly treasured the precious dreams in his heart, wondering what they could mean. He remembered the wonderful dream Father Jacob had been given about an angel ladder. He might not know today what the dreams meant, but he knew he would understand one day, for he trusted God; his caring and faithful Friend.

There may be times when you don't understand why things happen as they do. But you can trust God's messages to you in the Bible, and the way He leads in your life. You can pray, "Show me what I should do because my prayers go up to you" (Psalm 143:8, ICB).

Think . . . Then Talk About It:

- *Read about the awake dream God gave Jacob's grandfather Abraham in* ***Genesis 1:5****. Discuss what's similar and different.*
- *How might remembering Abraham's dream help Jacob's family at this point in the story?*

Parent Faith Talk: Share a situation in which things worked out well because you trusted God.

Do: With adult help, find out the names of 11 stars and try to find them in your night sky (or online/with a stargazing app).

Pray: Thank God for His amazing messages to us. Ask Him to help you trust Him, even when things seem uncertain.

☐ FRIDAY

God's Precious Love

Up in space, on the International Space Station, a group of astronauts wait for a ride on a spaceship back to Earth. Back on our planet, adventurers reach the peak of their mountain climb. A diver glides past sharks. A child stares up at a sparkling city skyscraper. A musician plays a beautiful concert. A soldier runs for cover. An athlete sprints to the finish line.

And then there's you.

Whatever you're doing, wherever you are, God knows you by name and He cares. You are always on His mind. Can you say or sing your memory verse? **Read Psalm 139:17.**

When Jacob returned home to Canaan, God thought about him so much, He showed up to see him! And when Joseph's brothers began to hurt him with their cruel words and jealousy, God saw and cared. He encouraged Joseph with not one, but two dreams about his future.

The Bible reminds us, "Give all your worries to Him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7, ICB). When things seem unfair or hurtful in our families, we can talk to God about it and ask for His help. When we get jealous of others, God understands. He can help us trust Him, instead of our feelings.

The Bible tells us, "With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of" (Ephesians 3:20, ICB).

Talk to God about everything that's on your mind today. He's listening. He cares.

Think . . . Then Talk About It:

- *How many things can you think of in nature that remain the same (for example: the sun rising)? Praise God for reminding you of His unchanging love.*



Friday Night

Share and Praise

- Sing a favorite worship song about God's care or His love for you.
- Draw an outline of Joseph's coat. Pass it around the family with colored pencils or markers. Invite each family member to share a story or example of how God has cared for them. After sharing they can color a part of the coat while another family member shares.
- Make a prayer circle around the coat and thank God for caring for your family in the past, present, and future.

Family Journal

- What does this week's story teach me about God?
- The most important thing I need to remember from this story is . . .

Pray

Pray a simple prayer, thanking God for caring for you.

For You, Parents

"You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, but you can control the will, and you can make an entire change in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God, and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from God that will hold you fast to his strength" (Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People*, p. 152).

SABBATH SPECIAL

Joseph's colorful coat was a reminder of his father's great love. This Sabbath you can choose from two fun activities to remind you of God's perfect love and care for us. "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17). He can help us with our feelings and choices and give us a bright future with Him.



1. GOD'S POWER: FUN WITH MAGNETS

Try this simple, fun experiment with magnets to discover how God's power can affect you and others.

You Will Need:

- Several magnets, some that repel if possible, but whatever you have handy
- Small metal objects, such as paper clips, push pins, staples, a teaspoon
- Other small objects, such as marbles, a pencil, a rubber band, a button

Experiment with the magnets and objects to see which are attracted to each other, which repel each other, and which are indifferent (aren't affected).

What did you discover?

Just like the magnets, our feelings, words, and actions sometimes draw us closer to others, and sometimes they drive us apart. God's power in our hearts can make us like a magnet to draw us closer to others. God is the biggest magnet of all; He wants to draw us all to Himself with His big, loving heart.

2. GOD'S LOVE: MAKE A FAMILY CHAIN



Create:

- Fold a rectangular piece of paper into thirds, then in half again.
- Draw half a person on the front strip, making sure you draw the head against the fold with no paper edges.
- Cut on the lines you have drawn. You will end up with three people as shown.
- Draw a face on each person; write Jacob on one, Joseph on another, and brothers on the third.
- You may like to draw clothing on each person, being careful to leave their names exposed. Dress Joseph and his brothers as depicted in the story.
- On the bottom strip, write your favorite Bible text from this week's lesson.

Tell: Use your family chain to share the story of Joseph with someone. Use it also as a reminder that God cares for your family and can always bring us close together, even when there are hard times or hurts.