

WEEK 7

# Sold!

**Big Idea: God is with me. I can be brave.**

**Memory Verse**

***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you"* (Isaiah 41:10).**

**Word of the Week**

***"Courage"*** - Courage is being able to do something even when it seems scary or hard. To have courage is to be brave. When we have our big, strong God by our side, we can be filled with courage knowing He will help us.

**This week's lesson**

is based on **Genesis 37:12-35** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 210-214.

Sunday

## Happy to Help

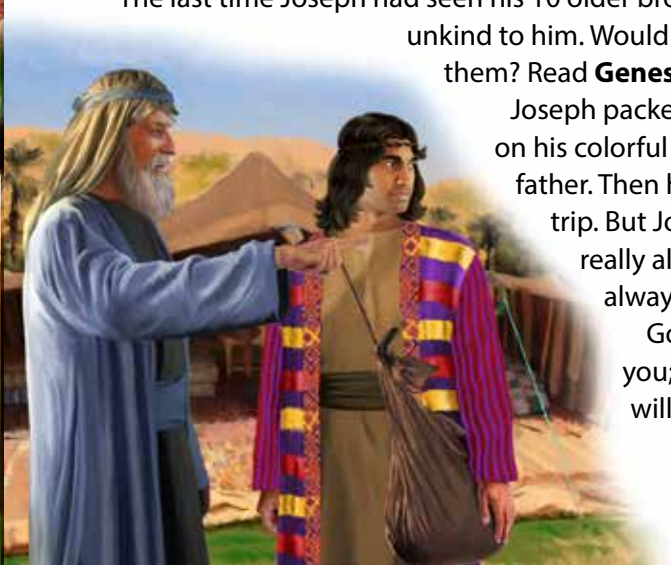
Joseph swung the hammer at the tent peg. *Ting. Ting. Ting.* He paused and listened. *Someone was calling for him. It sounded like Father Jacob.* Carefully Joseph returned the hammer and raced toward his father's tent.

Jacob laughed as Joseph burst through the doors of the tent with a big grin. Joseph was always so quick to obey. It made him happy to see his son being so honest and eager to help. Then Jacob's smile faded. He remembered why he had called Joseph. He was worried.

It wasn't another wobbly tent peg that worried Jacob. He was worried about his older sons. They had been looking after the sheep in far-away fields for a long time. *Were they safe? Were they well and happy?*

"Go and see if your brothers and the sheep are all right. Then come back and tell me," Jacob said to Joseph (Genesis 37:14 ICB).

The last time Joseph had seen his 10 older brothers they had been very unkind to him. Would Joseph want to go find them? Read **Genesis 37:13**.



Joseph packed his bag with food, put on his colorful coat, and waved to his father. Then he started his long, lonely trip. But Joseph knew he wasn't really alone because God was always with him. God would give him courage.

God can help you be brave too. He says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

### I Wonder

» If you were Joseph, would you have wanted to help your dad with his work?

» What do you like to do to help your family?

**Prayer Idea**

Thank God that no matter where you are, He is with you.

**Do**

Surprise someone in your family by helping them with a job that's useful but not very much fun. Do it with a smile!



Monday

# Where are they?

Down the road, over hills, and through big open fields, Joseph walked and walked. The sun was hot, but Joseph didn't slow down. He was happy to help his worried father. He would find his older brothers and their sheep. He would bring back good news to his father, as soon as possible.

Finally after a long, long journey, Joseph arrived in Shechem. But where were his brothers? Where were the sheep? No, not on that hill. No, not in that valley. Walking in a big field, Joseph looked left and he looked right. But nothing. He was so confused. *Where were they?*

Just then a man walked over. He had noticed that Joseph looked lost. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" (Genesis 37:15, ICB).

What did Joseph say to the man? Read **Genesis 37:16**.

Oh, yes! The man had seen the brothers and their flock of sheep. He had even overheard them talking. "I heard them say they were going to Dothan," he answered (Genesis 37:17, ICB).

Dothan would be at least another five or six hours of walking. Joseph could have whined about being tired. He could have stomped his feet and refused to go any further. But Joseph thought about his father's worried frown. He wanted to bring back good news, so his father could smile again. He wanted to make sure his brothers were safe.

Joseph thanked the stranger. Then with courage, he slung his bag over his shoulder and continued down the long path to Dothan.

## I Wonder

» What do you think Joseph might have done to help him not give up?

### Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you courage and strength to do the right thing, even when it is hard.

### Do

Even though Joseph's brothers treated him very unkindly, he still loved and cared for them. Can you think of someone who isn't always friendly or kind to you. Pray for courage and do something nice for them today to show God's love.

### Memory Verse

Tuesday

# A Scary Surprise

Joseph's brothers sat and watched the sheep munching grass nearby. Suddenly one of the brothers pointed. *What was that moving up ahead?*

It looked like a man coming their way. *Who could it be?* He seemed to walk like Joseph. He even waved like their brother Joseph. Then they saw the colorful coat. It was Joseph!

"Here comes that dreamer," they said to each other (Genesis 37:19, ICB). All their hate and jealousy bubbled up and overflowed like an angry volcano. Right then and there, the brothers decided to get rid of dreamer Joseph and his fancy coat.

Oldest brother Reuben heard their plans. He didn't want Joseph to be hurt. He said to his brothers, "Throw him into this well here in the desert. But don't hurt him!" (Genesis 37:22, ICB). Secretly Reuben planned to rescue him later and take him safely home to Father Jacob.

Joseph ran to greet them with a cheerful grin. But his brothers didn't smile back. They grabbed him and pushed him down. Snatching and tugging they tore something off his back. *Rip!* What was it? Read **Genesis 37:23**.

Then picking Joseph up, "they threw him into the well" (Genesis 37:24, ICB). *Thud*. The well was dry! Joseph landed on the hard ground of the dark, deep empty pit.

God was with Joseph as he sat in the dark, scared and confused. He promises us in the Bible, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

## I Wonder

» Can you think of a time when your anger bubbled over into bad actions?

» What can help to calm an angry mind?

### Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you courage to do the right thing when others around you aren't.

### Do

Tonight turn off all the lights. Turn a flashlight or lamp on and off and think of Joseph. Even though he couldn't see in the pit, God could still see and was still with him.

### Mission Challenge

Sing a song you have learned at Sabbath School to someone who visits your home, or someone who lives nearby.

### Memory Verse





Wednesday

# A Terrible Choice

Joseph sat at the bottom of the dark pit, bruised and sore. He cried. His sad feelings hurt even more than the scrapes on his body. How could his brothers be so unkind?

He could hear his brothers talking and laughing as they sat down to eat the food that he had brought for them. Joseph called out for help, but they just ignored him.

As they ate, the brothers noticed a long line of camels coming closer and closer. The smell of spices drifted on the breeze. The camels carried Ishmaelite traders traveling to Egypt to sell spices and other sweet-smelling things.

As they watched, brother Judah came up with an idea. Without hurting Joseph, they could still get rid of him for good. How? Read **Genesis 37:27**.

Big brother Reuben wasn't with them. But the other brothers nodded. Yes! What a great idea. As the traders came closer the brothers waved them down and made a deal to sell their brother. In those days, there was always a wealthy family in Egypt who wanted a slave to work for them. A young, healthy slave would make the traders lots of money.

The brothers reached into the dark pit and pulled poor Joseph out. Then they sold him for 20 pieces of silver.

Joseph couldn't believe it! He knew his life had just changed forever.

## I Wonder

» If you could have told Joseph one thing as he was being led away to Egypt, what would you have said?

» Maybe you could have shared your memory verse—do you remember it?

### Prayer Idea

Pray to God about something that scares you, and ask Him for courage.

### Do

Hide some favorite objects behind a bedsheet. Give clues to a family member as to what's there. Can they guess? The objects are there even though we can't see them. God was there for Joseph, even though he couldn't see Him.

### Memory Verse

Thursday

# Another Choice

Big brother Reuben looked down into the dark hole. He squinted and tried his hardest to see. He had left his brothers just after they had thrown Joseph into the deep pit. Now he'd come back to secretly free his little brother. But where was he? He was gone!

Reuben was so upset! What had his brothers done to poor Joseph?

With tears in his eyes, he raced to find them. The brothers held up their bag of money. Joseph wasn't hurt. They had sold him as a slave!

The brothers had told Reuben the truth. But now they had another choice to make. What would they tell their father? Would they have the courage to tell the truth or not?

All 10 brothers chose to tell a very terrible lie. Picking up Joseph's colorful coat, they dipped it in goat's blood and carried it home. Finding their father, "They said, 'We found this robe. Look it over carefully. See if it's your son's robe' " (Genesis 37:32, ICB).

The brothers let their father believe Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Poor Father Jacob. What did he do? Read **Genesis 37:34**.

The brothers watched their father cry. He was so sad, no one could comfort him. They realized they had made a big, horrible mistake. But none of them, not even Reuben, had the courage to tell the truth.

## I Wonder

» What should the brothers have done?

» Can you think of a time when you had the courage to tell the truth about something you did that was wrong?

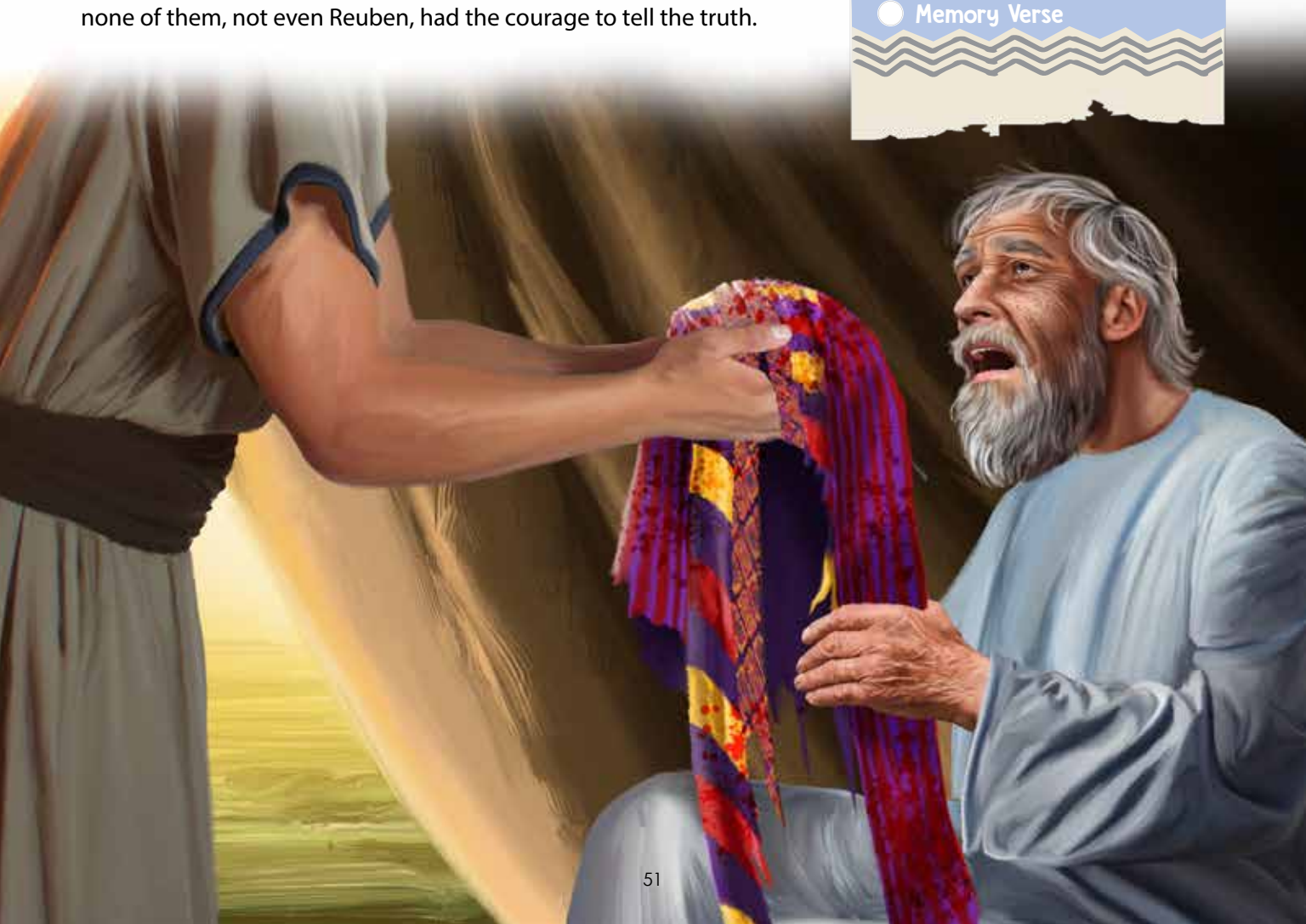
### Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you always choose to be honest about your mistakes.

### Do

Families are for loving. Cut a heart out of paper. Take turns holding the heart as you talk about what you love about each person in your family.

### Memory Verse





Friday

# Traveling to Egypt

The camels swayed from side to side as they plodded slowly toward Egypt. High up on their backs they carried a load of precious spices and perfumes. Beside them walked the Ishmaelite traders, chatting happily as they walked.

But behind one camel walked a very sad, scared-looking Joseph. He tried to hold in his tears but he couldn't. They blurred his eyes and spilled down his cheeks. He couldn't believe what had happened. His own brothers had sold him as a slave!

The camels plodded on, and so did he. Each slow step took him further away from home. He thought about his loving father and brother Benjamin. Would he ever see them again? Oh how he would miss them! He had never felt so alone.

Then Joseph's heart filled with fear. *How would he be treated as a slave? Would life be hard and miserable?*

In this scary moment, God was very close to Joseph. He reminded him of the stories father Jacob had told him about God, and how He always loves and protects His children. What had God promised Father Jacob? Read **Genesis 28:15**.

Courage filled Joseph's heart. He wasn't alone after all. God was with him, wherever he went—even faraway Egypt.

The Bible says, "When I am afraid, I will trust you. I praise God for his word. I trust God. So I am not afraid" (Psalm 56:3, 4, ICB). And that is exactly what Joseph decided to do!

## Parent Faith Talk

Tell about a time when you were in a new or uncomfortable situation and you decided to trust God.

## I Wonder

» Can you think of a time when you felt scared?

» What can you do the next time you are worried about something?

### Prayer Idea

Thank God that you can be brave knowing God is always with you.

### Memory Verse

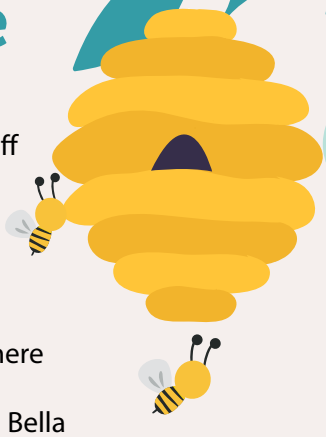
## Family Journal

Draw a picture of an animal that reminds you of courage. Glue it into your family journal. Pray for God to fill you with the courage and bravery of Joseph.

## For You, Parents

**"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"** (Corrie Ten Boom).

# Brave Bella and the Beehive



One hot afternoon Natasha, who was 8 years old, headed off down the dusty road with her best friend Bella. Bella was a dog, and they loved each other very much. The tall grass along the road was growing brown, and there were wild strawberries growing amongst the grass. Natasha and Bella stopped along the way to pick and eat the strawberries. They hadn't walked far when Natasha's foot accidentally stepped on a beehive that was hidden in the grass. Suddenly an angry swarm of bees zoomed out of the beehive. The buzzing grew louder and louder, and Natasha was stung several times before Bella the dog pushed her aside and lay down on top of the beehive. This kept most of the bees trapped inside, but the bees that had already escaped began stinging Bella the dog. Natasha screamed for help, and her mother came racing out with a blanket and an insect fogger. Poor Bella the dog spent a few days at the animal hospital, but eventually came home a hero.

Poor Joseph must have felt as if he'd been thrown to the bees when he was sold as a slave. But he chose to be brave like Bella the dog, because He knew God was with Him. We must remember that no matter what problems we face, we can have courage, knowing God is always with us too.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

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