

## JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY

## Genesis 37

**Lesson Memory Verse:** Colossians 3:20 "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."

**Lesson Aim:** Teach the children that they must respect and obey their parents even as they respect and obey God.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Have you ever seen an animal, bird or fish that was trained to obey its master? What was it that you saw? (They may have seen a dog or a horse, maybe a seal or a porpoise, and possibly they saw some birds do tricks at their master's command.) These creatures were trained to obey their masters' commands. Just like these creatures obey their masters, so God wants us to obey Him and our parents. Can you think of anyone in the Bible who obeyed God or obeyed his parents? (The blind man obeyed Jesus by washing his eyes in the pool of Siloam – John 9:7; Miriam obeyed her parents by taking care of Moses while he was in the little ark – Exodus 2:1-8.) Can you think of anyone in the Bible who disobeyed God? (Achan took things from Jericho – Joshua 7; Moses struck the rock when he was told to speak to the rock – Numbers 20:7ff; Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter – Acts 5.)

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse tells children that they must obey their parents. Let us look at our memory verse (Col 3:20) and answer some questions. (1) What commands are children to obey from their parents? (2) Why are they to obey their parents? (Of course, we know the Lord does not expect children to obey a command that would make them sin. God's command for them not to sin overrules any parent's command for them to sin.)

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.** In today's story from the Bible we will learn how Joseph obeyed God and also his father. (As you tell this exciting story include as many of the following points as possible.)

**I. Joseph Obeyed God (37:2-11)****A. He told his father about his brothers' sin (2-4).**

1. This may sound like tattling, but it was not. He was doing the right thing. He was uncovering sin (Lev 5:1). Tattling is done in order to get even with someone. Tattling is sin (1 Tim 5:13).

2. His duty was to tell what he had seen and heard even if his brothers would hate him for it. However, he was not to tell his father how they should be punished. He was not to try to get back at his brothers for the wrong they did to him. He was not to say, "They hurt me, father, so I want you to spank them for it." By uncovering sin Joseph was obeying God and making it possible for his brothers to see their sin and get right with God.

**WE:** We must not tattle to get back at people who have hurt us, but we should expose their sin so they can confess it and be blessed by God.

**B. He told his family about his dreams from God (5-11).**

1. In Joseph's day, the Bible had not yet been written, so God used dreams as one way of speaking to people (Heb 1:1). Today, God speaks to us through the Bible.

**WE:** We need to read the Bible so we know what God wants to say to us.

2. Joseph had two dreams, and both told how Joseph's family would bow down to him. This made Joseph's brothers hate him even more.

**WE:** When we obey God and tell the truth, we may be hated for doing it, but it is right for us to tell the truth that God has revealed to us. God will love us for doing it. God tells us many things in the Bible that He wants us to tell others. We need to tell people about the penalty of their sins in the Lake of Fire. We need to tell them about Jesus and His salvation. We may be hated for it, but it is better to obey God and please Him than to disobey God and please people.

3. Joseph's father loved him and listened to him (3, 11).

**WE:** When we tell the truth, many people will hate us, but not everyone. Our heavenly Father will love us and listen to us.

## **II. Joseph Obeyed his Father (37:12-36)**

### **A. He quickly obeyed his father (12-14).**

1. His father wanted him to go to his brothers who were taking care of the sheep and find out how they were doing, even though he knew his brothers hated him.

2. Joseph quickly obeyed his father and went.

**WE:** We need to obey our parents quickly when they tell us to do something, even though we may not like to do it.

### **B. He was determined to obey his father (15-17).**

1. His brothers had moved to another place.
2. He kept searching until he found them and did not give up.

**WE:** We must not give up and give excuses to our parents for not obeying them. God wants us to keep trying until we finish the job. He will help us to obey our parents if we ask Him.

### **C. He suffered for obeying his father (18-36).**

1. His brothers (except Reuben) planned to kill him at first (18-20).
2. Reuben kept the brothers from killing Joseph, so they threw him into a pit (21-24).
3. Finally, they decided to sell him to the Midianites as a slave (25-26).
4. The Midianites sold Joseph to an officer of Pharaoh's army far away in Egypt (36).

**WE:** We might think it was not good for Joseph to obey his father. We look at all of the troubles that came to him for obeying his father and think that Joseph made a mistake. Joseph was afraid when his brothers sold him as a slave (42:21), but he did not blame God, or his father, for the trouble that came to him. He kept on trusting God. We need to trust God to help us and to get us out of trouble when we have obeyed Him.

**BE (for Action):** How did Joseph obey God in today's lesson? (He uncovered the sin of his brothers, and he told his family what God had told him in two dreams.) How did Joseph obey his father? (He quickly obeyed his father. He was determined to obey him. He even suffered for obeying his father but did not become angry.) What did you learn about obeying from today's lesson that you will try to imitate? (Ask different children by name to give their answer before the whole class. Then pray for them to remember this lesson and to do what they have learned.)