



THE STORY OF
JOSEPH

2. What background information is given concerning Joseph in verses 2-4?

- 17 years old
- Brought back a bad report of his brothers
- Favorite son of his father as the “son of his old age”
- Coat of many colors
- Hated and envied by his brothers

3. Even though God does not speak to Joseph in his dreams, what do they indicate of God's involvement of this story?

- Came to pass just as described
- God's hand evident throughout the story
- Jacob's thoughts in chapter 45

4. How did Joseph's brothers, as well as Jacob, react when told of the dreams (v. 5-11)?

- “Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?” – Brothers in v. 8
- “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?” – Jacob in v. 10
- Jacob “kept the saying in mind” (v. 11)

5. Who proposed selling him into slavery (v. 25-28)?

- Rueben – “Let us not take his life”, with intent to rescue (v. 19)
- Judah – “Let us sell him... for he is our brother” (v. 26-27)
- Rueben returns to an empty pit – “Where am I to go?” (v. 29-30)

6. How did the brothers hide their guilt (v. 31-35)?

- Took the blood covered coat to Jacob
- “We found this; please examine it to see whether it is your son’s tunic or not.”
- Jacob deduced he had been killed by a wild animal

7. From where did Judah choose to take a wife (v. 1-5)?

- From among the Canaanites
- Shua bore him three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah
- Judah chose Tamar (likely a Canaanite) for Er
- When Er is killed, Onan is expected to provide children
- When he refuses, God kills him

8. After the deaths of Judah's two oldest sons, what promise did he make to his daughter-in-law Tamar (v. 6-11)?

- “Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up”
- She was to become the wife of Shelah

9. What did Tamar do when that promise remained unfulfilled (v. 12-23)?

- Seeking to bear children, she deceived Judah
- As a pledge of payment, Judah gave her his seal, cord and staff
- When the pregnancy became public, Judah condemned her to death

10. How did Judah react when confronted with his sin (v. 24-26)

- Tamar produced the items belonging to Judah
- “She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah.”

11. Which of the twins born to Tamar will be most important in Israel's lineage (Ruth 4:18-22)?

- Through the lineage of Perez came Boaz, great-grandfather to David

12. What reason is given for Joseph's success in Egypt (v. 2-6)? Did Potiphar recognize this?

- "The Lord was with Joseph."
- Five times the reason is given
- Thirteen years in Egypt before he comes before Pharaoh
- Potiphar noticed
- Became his personal servant, in charge of his household
- "The LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field." (v. 5)
- "Theological narrative" (Kidner)