

# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Joseph

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 1 WEEK 4

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### WHAT YOU NEED

- "Integrity Situation Cards" set (*printed*)
- Scissors
- Pens/pencils

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### LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- Genesis 41:1-13
- Genesis 41:14-27
- Genesis 41:28-40

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Today we read about how Joseph became one of the most important people in Egypt and how he made a big difference for God and his chosen people (Joseph's family). But the story of Joseph began long before this. God had been working on Joseph for years before this, shaping him into the young man that could do such amazing things for Him.

Joseph had been born into a very big family. He had 11 brothers! And he didn't always get along with his brothers. He was a bit of a tattler, his father, Jacob, favoured him and his youngest brother more than the rest of his siblings, and Jacob had even given Joseph a special coat. And, to top it off, Joseph had dreams of being the leader of the family and went on to share those dreams with his brothers.

Joseph's brothers' feelings went from annoyed to jealousy to hating Joseph. They hated Joseph so much that they were even thinking of killing him! One day, they grabbed Joseph and were about to kill him when his oldest brother, Reuben, convinced the rest of the brothers to throw him in a pit instead. Judah then convinced the brothers to sell Joseph as a slave to some passing traders. They then told Jacob that Joseph had been killed by wild animals. How painful it must have been for Joseph to know that his brothers hated him so much that they would sell him and he went from being a favourite son, to being a slave.

Joseph worked in Potiphar, an Egyptian's house. He was such a loyal servant, that even at a young age he was given big responsibilities in Potiphar's house. A few years later, Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph and Potiphar had no choice but to send him to prison. In prison, once again Joseph proved that he was reliable. Eventually he was put in charge of some of the other prisoners. While in prison, Joseph interpreted the dreams of two prisoners. One used to be King Pharaoh's cup bearer (butler) and the other used to be his baker. The cupbearer was eventually set free from prison and he went back to work for Pharaoh.

When Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret, the cupbearer suggested he call for Joseph. Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant, and Pharaoh was so impressed that he put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt. And eventually Joseph even managed to save his own family.

Joseph's time in Egypt was filled with events that were extremely bad and extremely good. In whatever situation Joseph found himself, he gave glory to God, worked hard, kept his integrity (doing the right thing even when no one is watching and even when it's hard) and he was always open to God using him. The things that happened to Joseph helped shape him into the man that God used to do amazing things.

Sometimes we might get frustrated, wondering, "When will God use me?" or "I want to make a difference for God, but I don't know how" or "It feels like I'm failing to be who God wants me to be." But remember, as long as we are willing, God will keep working on us. God can and does use even the bad things that happen to us, to help us become more and more like Jesus. If we are willing, He will use us to make a difference in His Kingdom.

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- How many sons did Jacob (Israel) have?
- Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him. Instead, what did they do?
- What did the brothers tell their father about Joseph?
- Who was Joseph sold to in Egypt?
- Why did Potiphar put Joseph in prison?
- Whose dreams did Joseph interpret in prison?
- Who did Pharaoh put in charge of preparing for the famine?
- Who did Joseph end up saving? (*The Egyptian people and his own family*)

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## LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- What is integrity? (*Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching and even when it's difficult*)
- God was working behind the scenes in Joseph's story. Joseph trusted that God would take care of everything, and God did. Is it always easy for us to trust God? Why/why not?
- When does it become really difficult to trust God and do the right thing?
- Have you ever been in a situation where your integrity was tested? What was that like?
- Do you trust that God can use you (even if you are young) to make a difference in His Kingdom?
- What do you think is one thing you can do over the next month for God? (*Each family member should commit to one thing they can do, however big or small. Please try to follow up on this and encourage each other to do the one thing over the next month - you can also write it down and stick it up somewhere in your home as a reminder.*)

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## LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank God that He never stops working on us.
- Thank God that He does use us when we are willing and open.
- Pray for each family member - pray that God would give them courage to do the one thing they have committed to.

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## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Print out the "Integrity Situation Cards" set. Cut out the cards. Divide the cards equally between family members. Take 5 minutes to read the cards you have (*assist younger children*) and then try and come up with the most outrageous way to complete the card - the sillier the better. Write these answers down on the cards. Family members then take turns reading out their answers - have a good giggle.

*The silliness of this game is for fun, but please emphasise what integrity is and emphasise how these small situations are showing that you have integrity.*

# Integrity Situation Cards

<p>Integrity is seeing rubbish on the floor, picking it up and putting it in the bin without being asked, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is saying good things about someone behind their backs, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is choosing not to watch a movie that you are not allowed to even if your parents would never find out, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>
<p>Integrity is telling the teacher you were playing at her desk and broke her vase while she was out of the room, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is telling the truth even if it means you will get in trouble, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is finding money on the floor at school and handing it in to your teacher, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>
<p>Integrity is admitting when you broke someone else's toy/property and offering to replace/fix it, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is studying for the test and writing your own answers, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>	<p>Integrity is telling the tuck shop lady that she gave you too much change, NOT</p> <p>----- ----- -----</p>