

Story 35/36: The Cruel Plan of Joseph's Brothers

One day Jacob sent his older sons to a pasture to take care of his sheep. Later, Jacob sent Joseph to see if his brothers were O.K. Joseph wore his beautiful coat, and his brothers saw him coming. "Look, here comes the dreamer," they said. They decided to kill him. But Reuben said, "He's our brother. Let's not kill him." So they took Joseph's coat and put him in a deep well with no water. The brothers sat down to eat. Then they saw some travelers going to Egypt. They decided to sell Joseph to the travelers. They tore his coat and put some sheep's blood on it. They took the coat to their father Jacob, and told him a wild animal had killed Joseph. Jacob was very sad for many, many days.

Read this story in the Bible in Genesis 37:12-36.

Words to Know

cruel – causing pain and suffering to others

pasture – a plot of land where animals graze and eat grass

dreamer – a person who dreams

travelers – people going from one place to another

Questions

1. Why did Jacob send Joseph to check on his brothers?
2. When his brothers saw Joseph coming, what do you think made them so angry?
3. Why didn't the brothers kill Joseph?
4. What did the brothers expect to happen to Joseph in the well?
5. Why did the brothers decide to sell Joseph?
6. Why did the brothers tear Joseph's coat and put animal blood on it?
7. What lie did the brothers tell their father Jacob?
8. Did Jacob believe the story his sons told him? How did he feel about it?

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