

Story 37: Joseph Works as a Slave

The men who bought Joseph arrived in Egypt. They sold Joseph to Potiphar, an official of the king. God was with Joseph and helped him do good work. Soon Potiphar saw that Joseph could be trusted. He gave Joseph an important job – to take care of Potiphar’s house and property. The years passed. Joseph grew to be strong and handsome. Potiphar’s wife looked at Joseph more and more. She wanted to have sex with Joseph. Joseph said, “NO!” and ran. Potiphar’s wife lied and said Joseph tried to rape her. Potiphar became very angry. He put Joseph in prison.

Read this story in the Bible in Genesis 39:1-20

Words to Know

arrive – to get to the place you are going

official – a person who has a job of authority in the government

be trusted – to have others know that you do what you say you will

handsome – physically attractive

rape – to have sex by force without permission

Questions

1. Why did Potiphar decide he could trust Joseph?
2. Why did Joseph do good work?
3. What was Joseph responsible for in Potiphar’s house?
4. What happened to Joseph as the years passed?
5. Why did Potiphar’s wife keep looking at Joseph? What did she want from him?
6. Why did Joseph say “NO” to Potiphar’s wife?
7. Why did Potiphar’s wife lie about Joseph?
8. Why did Potiphar put Joseph in prison?

The men who bought Joseph arrived in Egypt.

They sold Joseph to Potiphar, an official of the king.

God was with Joseph and helped him do good work.

Soon Potiphar saw that Joseph could be trusted.

He gave Joseph an important job – to take care of Potiphar's house and property.

The years passed. Joseph grew to be strong and handsome.

Potiphar's wife looked at Joseph more and more.

She wanted to have sex with Joseph.

Joseph said, "NO!" and ran.

Potiphar's wife lied and said Joseph tried to rape her.

Potiphar became very angry.

He put Joseph in prison.