

# Joseph: Betrayed By His Brothers

Abraham had a great-grandson (one of twelve) named **Joseph** who was seventeen years old in **Genesis 37**. Joseph's father, **Jacob** (whose name had been changed by God to **Israel**) "\_\_\_\_\_ Joseph more than any other of his sons" (**37:3**), but Joseph's brothers "\_\_\_\_\_ him and could not speak peacefully to him" (**37:4**).

In **Genesis 37**, Joseph had two dreams. In the first, Joseph and his brothers were binding sheaves of wheat in a field, and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to Joseph's sheaf. In the second dream, the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to Joseph.



So [Joseph's brothers] hated him even more for his \_\_\_\_\_ and his words. (**37:8**)

One day, Joseph was sent by his father to check on his brothers. When they saw him "from afar," they "conspired against [Joseph] to kill him" (**37:18**). Joseph's oldest brother, **Reuben**, convinced them to "shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness" (**37:22**), planning eventually to rescue Joseph and return him to their father Israel.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his \_\_\_\_\_, the robe of many colors that he wore. (**37:23**)

When they saw an opportunity, Joseph's brothers sold him to traders who were traveling to Egypt.

Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the \_\_\_\_\_. (**37:31**)

**What does this have to do with our search for our King?** Jesus knew what it felt like to be betrayed (**Matt 26:45-47**) and "stripped" of his own clothes (**27:28-31**). Just as God used what evil men did to Joseph to save the lives of many, he used what sinners did to Jesus to extend salvation to all mankind!



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- According to **Genesis 37:11**, what filled the heart of Joseph's brothers, motivating them to do what they did? And according to **Matthew 27:18**, what did Pilate know about why the chief priests and elders had delivered Jesus up?
- Joseph escaped death by being taken to Egypt (**Gen 37:28**). Where was Jesus also taken as a baby (**Matt 2:13-15**)? Why?
- **John 19:23-24** describes Jesus' garments being taken and divided, along with his tunic, in what appears to be a picture of terrible defeat. But how does **Revelation 19:11-16** describe him? Whose blood is on his robe?
- We have much more to learn about Joseph in our next few lessons, but was there a bigger plan unfolding? What was that plan? What can we learn from all this?
- Is there anything we can learn as families from the ugliness described in **Genesis 37**?