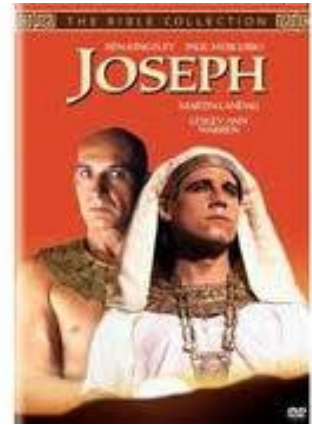


# Outline to the Joseph DVD

A free resource from Neil MacQueen, [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)

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This is the Joseph DVD from the well-known Turner Broadcasting “Bible Collection.” It stars Ben Kingsley as Potiphar, Martin Landau as Jacob, and Paul Mercurio as Joseph.



**“Joseph” stands above the crowd of Bible movies and shines even within the Turner Bible Collection.** The story line is right from scripture. The dialog is biblically and theologically sharp. The acting, scenery, and sense of authenticity is very good. And unlike some other Bible movies, this one steers away from spiking the story with superfluous drama or storylines. Perhaps this is due to the story of Joseph itself! ...you couldn’t have written a better drama.

This 1995 movie was originally broadcast on television as a series. You’ll notice this in that there are some rather distinct breaks and the entire 3 hour movie seems to be organized in roughly **four 40 minute episodes** which is how this outline breaks it down too. The DVD has a chapter menu. The “4 parts” are my breakdown. Don’t let the length freak you out. Afterall, Joseph is the second largest story in the Old Testament, is full of meaning, and very entertaining.

**The “chapters” in this guide correspond to the chapters you select from the DVD’s Title Menu.**

Approximate timemarks are also given to help with planning, and for those not using the chapter menu. The four 40 minute episodes I’ve outlined fit snugly in the typical 50 minute Sunday School class, so get started on time! Or better yet, show the movie in two installments on a Wednesday night with some Joseph food and activities.

**Age Range:** Optimally 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to adult. The story is appropriate for all ages, but parts of the movie may be inappropriate or too complex for young children. I have shown parts of this video to students grades 3-12. It is sufficiently exotic and dramatic enough to hold the attention of young teens, provided you break it up into several viewings. At 3 hours in length, it should not be shown in one setting.

## **Recommended to Skip:**

1. Chapter 5 and 6. The biblical story of Jacob and the King of Shechem, and the subsequent rape of Dinah is part of the Joseph story, but because of time constraints, I recommend skipping it.
2. The sexual innuendo found in Joseph’s first encounter with Potiphar’s wife in a bath may be inappropriate for younger children and in some churches. This guide marks that section and you can easily FF for 5 seconds at that point. Preview it, but don’t over-think it. It appeared on network TV in 1995, and the encounter does highlight the degree of Joseph’s temptation and integrity.

**About the Beginning:** The movie begins with Joseph being sold into slavery. Then when he is accused by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph “tells his story” to Potiphar about his brothers and how he came to be a slave. You should explain this to your students. It’s a good way to get into the story as the opening slave market scene is very compelling.

**All timemarks are approximate.** “Chapters” correspond to the chapter menu on the DVD. Pressing your “next chapter” button on your remote will advance the DVD to the next chapter.

**From a teaching perspective,** I suggest you repeat and discuss some of the key quotes I’ve excerpted in this guide. In each episode, one or more of the characters tends to say something pithy and profound.

**Print and Read my [free guide to “Teaching with Video”](http://sundaysoftware.com/site/teaching-with-video/).** It has many teaching tips and lesson plan suggestions you should use with this movie. <http://sundaysoftware.com/site/teaching-with-video/>

## **PART 1: Introducing Joseph and His Story**

(approximately 37 minutes if you skip Chapters 5 & 6 as recommended)

### **CHAPTER 1 (0:00 to 7:00)**

We see Joseph being purchased at a slave auction by Potiphar. Potiphar is introduced.

“Joseph only prays to one god!” “My one God provides for me.”

Joseph is introduced as a “Semite”. The teacher should explain this as his people’s name before they were called Jews or Israelites.

We see Joseph taken to Potiphar’s house.

### **CHAPTER 2 (approx 7:00 to 17:00)**

Ednan the Overseer instructs the slaves to give praise to Amun. Joseph does not.

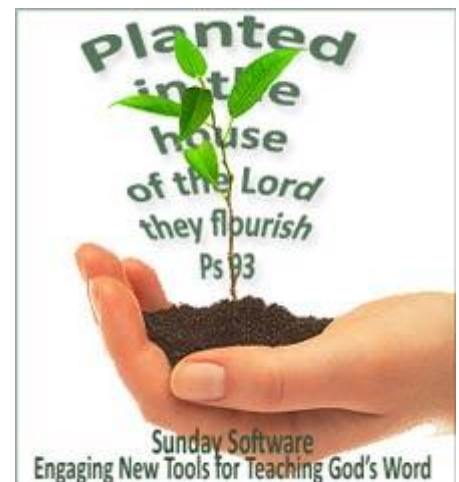
Ednan forces Joseph to carry heavy water jars and tries to force him to forsake his god. Joseph does not fight back. We’ll see Ednan change during this story.

Joseph helps Ednan read architectural plans, and thus begins Joseph’s rise in stature and reputation for being willing to help.

Potiphar’s wife appears and calls Joseph a special man. Joseph plants a garden (everything he touches flourishes). In the window we see Potiphar’s wife lusting after Joseph.

Potiphar praises the architect and reminds Joseph, “In Egypt, only Pharaoh Son of Ra is god!”

“Whatever he touches flourishes.” Potiphar puts Joseph in charge of his household.



### **CHAPTER 3 (approx 18:00 to 19:00)**

We see Joseph counting Potiphar's money.

Ednan the overseer asks Joseph "how do you do it?"

### **CHAPTER 4 (approx 19:00 to 28:00)**

Potiphar's wife lusts after Joseph in the bathhouse. (The dialog here highlights Joseph's struggle to obey his God's laws and master's trust. However, as she reaches down into the water, you may want to FF about 5 seconds.)

"How could I betray your husband's trust?"

The next day, she approaches him again. We do not see the famous "taking of the towel" episode until Chapter 12.)

Potiphar returns to the house and accuses Joseph. Joseph replies, "would you have me call her a liar?" Potiphar believes Joseph because of his past integrity, and knows his wife is lying, but cannot take the word of a slave over his wife, and keep his position in Pharaoh's court.

Joseph asks to speak "as a free man" and says, "I would never betray you." Potiphar understands and says, "It goes against everything I've ever seen in you." (Potiphar is portrayed as righteous as well.)

Joseph BEGINS to tell Potiphar how he became a slave.

### **CHAPTER 5 (approx 29:00 to 41:00)** *(You may want to skip this chapter)*

This chapter tells a part of the Joseph story often not taught or remembered: the story of Jacob and the King of Shechem entering into a covenant, and after the rape of their sister Dinah, the sons of Jacob killing all in the city. For those short on time, or wanted to just focus on Joseph, **I recommend skipping both Chapters 5 and 6.**

### **CHAPTER 6 (approx 41:00 to 52:00)** *(You may want to skip this chapter)*

This chapter continues the story of the one before it, and finishes with the birth of Benjamin and death of Rachel.

## **CHAPTER 7 (approx 53:00 to 57:00)**

“Nine Years Later” we see Joseph the teenager playing with his younger brother Benjamin

We see Reuben, the oldest brother, sneak away with Beulah, one of his father Jacob’s concubines. This sin becomes one of the main reasons why Jacob decides to dis-inherit Reuben, and favor Joseph (in addition to Joseph being his favorite wife Rachel’s firstborn). The inheritance laws here should be explained to children. You could skip this side-story about Reuben and Beulah by Fast Forwarding but it’s so short, don’t bother.

Jacob sends his sons away to a far pasture. There they break their father’s rule against eating lamb and taunt Joseph who refuses to eat the lamb with them.

## **CHAPTER 8 (approx 57:00 to 60:00)**

Jacob doesn’t believe his sons excuse for how the lamb was killed. The brothers believe Joseph betrayed them to their father.

Jacob gives Joseph his “multi-colored” coat as a sign of his favorite status. Importantly, Jacob states why he favors Joseph, because of his loyalty and leadership. He calls the coat a “robe of honor.”

Joseph tells Benjamin about their mother Rachel.

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# **PART 2: Joseph’s Dreams and Beliefs Get Him in Trouble**

(approx 38 minutes)

## **CHAPTER 9 (approx 1:00 to 1:08)**

Joseph dreams of sheaves of wheat bowing down before him.

Joseph tells his brothers about the dream and they think his position has gone to his head.

Joseph repeats the dream to Jacob and the brothers, and is accused of “dreaming of being our master.”

Joseph tells of his second dream, the sun, moon, and stars bowing before him. Jacob takes offense that Joseph thinks he is even greater than his father! (which is true, but he doesn’t realize it yet).

Jacob sends Joseph to go see his brothers out at their distant pasture camp and tells Joseph to “try and make peace with them.”

## **CHAPTER 10 (approx 1:09 to 1:15)**

Joseph journeys to find his brothers, but his jealous brothers decide to move their camp.

After getting directions from a stranger (angel), Joseph finds his brothers at their new location. (God sending Joseph into harm’s way.)

We see the brothers complaining about Joseph. When Joseph finds them, their jealousy boils over. Simeon is the ringleader, calling for Joseph’s death. Only Reuben, the older brother, is against it, but he does nothing to stop them.

The brothers tear Joseph’s coat and throw him in a well. Simeon and Reuben argue about his fate. Brothers celebrate.

## **CHAPTER 11 (approx 1:15 to 1:23)**

Joseph is crying out down in the well (very compelling).

Reuben decides to leave the camp and come back in the morning to rescue Joseph.

The brothers see Ishmaelite slave traders and decide sell him.

Reuben returns too late and is led to believe that Joseph is dead.

Next we see Jacob grieving for Joseph, “What’s left of me if Joseph is gone?”



## **CHAPTER 12 (approx 1:26 to 1:34)**

Joseph tells Potiphar the truth about his wife. We see a flashback to Potiphar's wife tempting Joseph and taking his towel. She tells Joseph "my husband will kill you!"

Joseph pledges it is true, "As I swear before the Lord my God." Potiphar believes Joseph.

Potiphar summons his household and orders Joseph taken to Pharaoh's prison as punishment.

Potiphar confronts his wife. She accuses him of "humiliating me." Potiphar says, "what honor? I know you wife."

Potiphar says, "Anyone who knows Joseph, knows that if he swears by his God, he is telling the truth."

Potiphar says, "Wherever Joseph is, he is free because his god is with him."

----These are key statements in the movie. They are not found in scripture, but capture the truth.---

## **CHAPTER 13 (approx 1:35 to 1:38)**

Joseph arrives in Pharaoh's Prison. We see him crying out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" This is a quote from Psalm 22, which was also quoted by Jesus on the cross.

We see Joseph begin to do good in prison and be put in charge.

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# **PART 3: Joseph Becomes Governor Of Egypt**

(approx 42 minutes)

## **CHAPTER 14 (approx 1:38 to 1:47)**

“Seven years have passed”. Potiphar visits the prison praising all that Joseph has accomplished there. Joseph responds, “God blesses my work.”

Pharaoh’s Baker and Cupbearer arrive in prison. One of them has stolen a gold bracelet from Pharaoh.

Joseph speaks with the Baker and Cupbearer. The Baker haughtily beats Joseph.

*Meanwhile back in Canaan... Tammar, a childless widow of two of the brothers, hides her identity and tempts Judah to lay with her so she can have a child and keep her place in the family. This story will resolve in Chapter 16 when Judah takes responsibility for his actions and accepts Tammar into his family. This is an interesting side story for older students but doesn’t really illuminate Joseph’s story, other than to say, his brothers weren’t all bad. Skipping it will save about 4 minutes.*

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## **CHAPTER 15 (approx 1:48 to 1:53)**

Potiphar asks Joseph to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh’s Cupbearer and Baker, saying, “You can’t remain silent now that they know you have the gift.”

The Cupbearer tells his dream to Joseph about the three branches and buds. Joseph interprets that the Cupbearer will be restored to Pharaoh’s court.

The Baker tells his dream to Joseph about the birds eating from trays on his head. Joseph interprets that the Baker will be dead in three days.

Potiphar appears, and at this point in the movie there is a very abrupt edit as we jump back to the Judah and Tammar story for a minute. We see him trying to pay Tammar but she is gone.

We see the Baker being hung and the Cupbearer being set free.

## **CHAPTER 16 (approx 1:54 to 2:01)**

The conclusion of the Judah and Tammar side story. Skip if you are short on time.

Tammar reveals that the father of her unborn child is Judah. He takes responsibility and announces, “You will live with respect.”

## **CHAPTER 17 (approx 2:02 to 2:13)**

Pharaoh enters his court announced as “Ra Incarnate, Son of Heavens.”

Potiphar praises Pharaoh, then Pharaoh tells the court about his dreams: 7 skinny hippos eating 7 fat ones, and 7 bad heads of grain eating 7 good.

Pharaoh’s advisors attempt to interpret but are afraid. The Cupbearer **BOLDLY** steps forward to say that Joseph the Semite can interpret dreams.

Joseph is bathed and brought to Pharaoh. Joseph risks death by refusing to prostrate himself before Pharaoh. “I can kneel only before God.”

Pharaoh realizes that “this man won’t lie to save his life” and invites Joseph to hear his dreams.

Joseph tells Pharaoh that his dreams are the same: 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.

We see Pharaoh’s wife and Asenath discussing Joseph. Asenath will become his wife.

Pharaoh doesn’t believe Joseph.

## **CHAPTER 18 (approx 2:13 to 2:20)**

Pharaoh has a nightmare. His wife tells him, “there must be a reason you let Joseph live.”

Back in court, Pharaoh believes Joseph and asks the court what can be done. Joseph says they must select a wise and honest man to gather grain into granaries, someone who can be trusted to dispense the grain during famine.

Pharaoh says there is no better man for the job than Joseph who is “endowed with the Spirit of God.”

Joseph is made Governor of All Egypt.

Pharaoh changes his name to “Zaphenath-paneah” which prophetically means, “The Savior”.

Pharaoh also gives Asenath to Joseph to be his wife.

We see Joseph dressed as an Egyptian and people bowing before him.



## **PART 4: Joseph and His Brothers in Egypt**

(approx 45 minutes)

### **CHAPTER 19 (approx 2:20 to 2:24)**

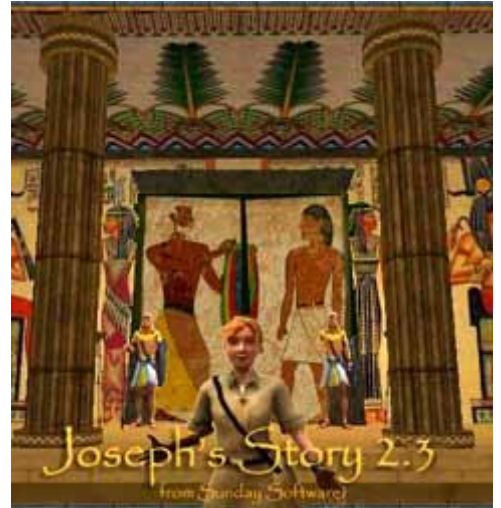
Joseph/Zaphenath-paneah and Potiphar talk at the Palace.

Ednan the Overseer is hired by Joseph to help with the granary projects. It is an act of forgiveness.

Joseph and Ednan are seen at scenes of harvest.

Asenath and Joseph have a baby. YEARS PASS.

We see Joseph's two sons as a famine begins.



A software adventure-lesson from Sunday Software

### **CHAPTER 20 (approx 2:26 to 2:30)**

Famine in Canaan.

Jacob sends the brothers to Egypt with gold and silver to buy grain.

### **CHAPTER 21 (approx 2:30 to 2:39)**

Joseph sees his brothers arrive at a granary and hides his face.

Ednan accuses the brothers of being spies and has them arrested.

Brothers in jail lament, "Now we know how Joseph felt." Brothers argue about what they did to Joseph.

Joseph at home tells his wife about the arrival of his brothers. "My anger was strong than my compassion." "They seem unchanged."

Asenath profoundly says, "It was their cruelty which brought you here to me and to save Egypt."

The Brothers are released to go back to Canaan and bring back Benjamin as a sign of their contrition. Simeon is kept in jail.

## **CHAPTER 22 (approx 2:40 to 2:45)**

The brothers discover that their grain payments have been put back in their sacks. They fear they will be accused of stealing. They arrive in Canaan and argue with their father Jacob about what to do. Jacob counsels them to take back double payment. However, Jacob will not let Benjamin go to Egypt.

Leah, Jacob's first wife, steps forward and tells him to listen to his sons and "Trust God."

## **CHAPTER 23 (approx 2:47 to 3:02)**

The brothers are back in Joseph's house. They are bathed and brought in to a feast. Joseph enters the room and speaks to Benjamin. After they eat, they leave for Canaan.

Along the way back to Canaan, the brothers are stopped and searched. Joseph's Cup is found in Benjamin's sack. "Why did you return good with evil?"

The brothers confess their sins, and Joseph says he'll let them go but keep Benjamin. Reuben laments, "Perhaps it is all the will of God." "20 years of wretched cowardice."

2:58 When the brothers offer their lives in place of Benjamin's, Joseph says, "are you now ready to sacrifice your lives for the life of another brother, when you sacrificed the one already?"

2:59 "I AM JOSEPH, BE AT PEACE. DO NOT BE AFRAID.

YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD."

Simeon exclaims, "I am most to blame, kill me."

Joseph replies, "My brother, that is not the lesson the Lord has put before us. Always be true to one another. ...Go get our father."

3:03 Jacob arrives in Egypt.

## **3:08 The End**

### **Joseph's Story 2**

We at Sunday Software have built "Joseph's Story" –a computer adventure game that takes your students through "the ruins of Joseph's palace in Egypt" where they will learn and review the story. They play the story as "Robin" a young teenage archaeologist, and must complete story-related challenges. Check it out at <http://sundaysoftware.com/site/joseph-2/>.

