

Joseph in Egypt Drama Workshop Script

(adapted from Crazy Clothesline Characters and Genesis, New Living Translation)

SCENE 1: (at Station 1, the pasture)

To start with, I'm Joseph and you are his brothers.

Joseph, his 11 brothers and his father Jacob lived a long time ago — after Abraham but before Moses and well before Jesus. Joseph's brothers were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher — who were all older than him — and Benjamin, who was younger.

Our father Jacob likes me the best, and everyone knows it. You often grumble about it. [Encourage everyone to grumble.]

One day, when I was seventeen years old, one or more of my brothers did something he should not have done. The Bible doesn't say what it was. Maybe he killed one of the sheep he was supposed to be watching and roasted it for dinner. Maybe several brothers got in a big fight. Any other suggestions? [Accept all ideas, briefly.] Maybe. The Bible doesn't say. All it says is that I reported some of the bad things my brothers were doing. So I left my brothers to go to Jacob's tent.

SCENE 2: (at Station 2, Jacob's tent)

[Ask for a volunteer to be Jacob and another to be Joseph and give them copies of Dialog Card #1 with their parts highlighted. Have 'Jacob' stand in the tent. The tent should be nearby, so just Joseph and Jacob go to tent while the "brothers" stay in the pasture and watch this scene.]

Dialog Card #1:

JOSEPH: Father, Father, I have something to tell you!!

JACOB: Yes Joseph, my dear son, what is it?

JOSEPH: Guess what my brothers have done, they have done a bad thing! [Whisper in Jacob's ear.]

JACOB: WHAT! Have those boys come here right this instant!

JOSEPH: [Turn and wave the "brothers" to come over.] Oh, brothers, come here.

JACOB: [Shake finger at brothers.] You bad boys! Just for that, you will go to bed without dinner.

[Encourage the brothers to whine and grumble again.]

SCENE 3: (back at Station 1, the pasture)

Later, back in the pasture, how do you think the brothers felt about Joseph? [encourage responses.] What are some things they might have said? [I hate him! That tattletale! He thinks he's so perfect!]

SCENE 4 (at Station 2, Jacob's tent)

I need someone to be Jacob. The rest of you are going to be craftsmen and make a colorful coat.

[Have the Shepherd help the children tape pieces of streamer on the coat as 'Joseph' and 'Jacob' talk, using dialog card #2.]

Dialog Card #2:

JACOB: I want to give my dear son Joseph a present. I know, a coat! Craftsmen, make a colorful coat for my dear son Joseph! A coat like no other.

JACOB: [craftsmen finish coat and hand it to Jacob] Thank you. [Direct craftsmen back to 'pasture.']

Joseph, come here!

JOSEPH: Yes, father.

JACOB: Joseph, because you are my favorite son, I am giving you this special gift.

JOSEPH: Gee, thanks Dad! I've never seen such a colorful coat before! [hug]

BROTHERS: [in pasture — grumble and complain]

SCENE 5: (Station 1, pasture)

Time passes.

One day the brothers are sitting in the pasture when Joseph comes up --- wearing his robe, of course. [Give each child a long piece of grass so they can act out the dream. Pick out a new Joseph or Leader can be Joseph again.]

"Brothers, guess what! Listen to this dream I had. We were out in the field, tying our grain into bundles. My bundle stood up and then all of your bundles gathered around it and bowed low before my bundle. Can you believe it?"

[Have children throw down their grass and say "We'll NEVER bow down to you!" Brothers grumble and pout.]

Another morning the brothers and their father Jacob [have someone stand up to be Jacob] are in the pasture, when Joseph comes running up.

[Give each child a paper star and Jacob gets a sun so they can act out the dream.]

"Brothers, guess what! Listen to this dream I had. I dreamed the sun, moon, and eleven stars gathered around me and bowed low before me. Can you believe it?"

[Have children throw down their stars and say "We'll NEVER bow down to you!" Brothers grumble and pout. Jacob just shakes head.]

And Joseph's father Jacob thought to himself, "Maybe God does have a plan for Joseph."

SCENE 6: (Pasture next to station 3, the pit)

One day, Joseph's brothers are with the sheep in far-off fields. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them. (Remember, Joseph's the family tattletale.) Joseph's brothers see him coming in the distance. They recognize him by the fine coat he is wearing. "Here comes the dreamer! Come on, let's kill him and throw his body into a deep pit. We can tell Father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what becomes of all his dreams." [evil laughter]

But Jacob's oldest son Reuben comes to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him. Why should we shed his blood? He is our brother, after all. Let's just throw him alive into a pit and let him die there. That way, he'll die by starving to death, and we won't even have to touch him." (In truth, Reuben is planning to secretly help Joseph escape, and then he can bring Joseph back to his father and earn his father's pleasure.)

So when Joseph arrives, his brothers don't even say hello. They just pull off his beautiful robe and throw him into an empty pit. [Allow children to take off your robe and push you onto the paper circle.]

"Help! Let me out!" Joseph cried. But they just sit down to eat their lunch.

"Look," said Judah. "I see a caravan of camels and traders in the distance. What do we gain by killing our brother? Let's sell Joseph to those traders. Then we won't be responsible at all for his death. After all, he is our brother!"

His brothers agree.

[Pick one child to be the trader and give him a bag of coins. Allow the others to pull you 'out' of the well and let the trader give the brothers the money and lead you off to Egypt.] So they pull Joseph out of the pit and sell him for twenty pieces of silver. The traders take him to Egypt.

The brothers wonder, "What are we going to say to father?" [Any ideas?]

And that's exactly what they do. They kill a goat and dip the robe in its blood and take it to their father. Come on. Let's see what happens.

SCENE 7: (Station 2, Jacob's tent)

[Pick one child to be Jacob]

Dialog card #3:

BROTHER: We found this in the field, sir. It's Joseph's, isn't it?

JACOB: Yes, it is my son's robe. A wild animal has attacked and eaten him. Surely Joseph has been torn into pieces! I will die mourning for my son

Then Jacob tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth to show he was in great despair. He mourns like this for many days. His family tries to comfort him, but it is no use. "I will die mourning for my son," he would say, and then begin to weep.

[Have children sit in pasture again, facing Egypt.]

Joseph in Egypt Drama Workshop Dialog Cards

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Below are the Dialog Cards you can print, cut, and distribute to students.

Dialog Card #1:

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JOSEPH: [Turn and wave the "brothers" to come over.] Oh, brothers, come here.

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[Encourage the brothers to whine and grumble again.]

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JOSEPH: Yes, father.

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JOSEPH: Gee, thanks Dad! [hug]

BROTHERS: [in pasture — grumble and complain]

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