

# The Family God Chose to Bless the World

by  
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## Joseph and Family

This is the fourth in a series of Plays which tell how God chose the family of Abraham to bless all the people of the world through Jesus and the salvation He provides.

### PLAYS IN THE SERIES

1. Abraham and Lot
2. Isaac
3. Esau and Jacob
- 4. Joseph and Family**
5. Miriam and Moses

The Plays give children the opportunity to read about the Bible stories in dramatic form without having to memorize a script. Wearing Bible times costumes and using simple props add to the experience, but are not required. Although a list of characters is given, casting is flexible. Use more or fewer storytellers by dividing the parts or by giving more than one part to fewer children.

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The names of the sons of Jacob,  
later called Israel:  
Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,  
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Gad,  
Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin.  
Genesis 29, 35, 49

# Joseph and Family

Genesis 29,30,35,37,39-50

## Characters (27)

Jacob/Israel  
Simeon  
Reuben

\*Joseph  
Dan  
Judah

Levi  
Asher  
Pharaoh

Storytellers: 1-18

\* The Joseph role is quite lengthy. It could be shared by 2 or more players (readers). Joseph's part following Storyteller 8, page 10 is a good division place for two players.

### Storyteller 1

Gen. 29:16-30  
Gen. 30:22-24  
Gen. 37:3,4

Joseph was Jacob's 11<sup>th</sup> son.  
He was the son of Rachel, the wife  
Jacob loved so much that he worked  
for her father 14 years so he could  
marry her. Jacob's sons knew  
Joseph was their father's favorite.  
They were jealous and hated Joseph  
because he got special treatment,  
like the colorful robe  
with long sleeves.  
His brothers called him the dreamer.

### Joseph

Gen. 37:5-8

If using a robe,  
stand up, slowly  
turn around to  
show it off.

Can I help it if father loves me best?  
This is my new robe. I like the colors  
and the nice long sleeves.  
Hey, listen to my dream.  
All of us guys were cutting grain  
and tying it up into bundles to make  
sheaves. My sheaf stood up and  
yours came and bowed down to it.

### Levi

Gen. 37:8a

Do you think you are going to rule  
over us?

### Simeon

You're really dreaming if you think  
we are going to bow down to you.

### Storyteller 2

Gen. 37:8b

Because of the dream they hated  
him even more.

### Joseph

Gen. 37:9

Hey guys, I've had another dream.  
This time the sun, moon, and eleven  
stars were bowing down to me.

### Jacob/Israel

Gen. 37:10

What kind of dream is this? Are your  
mother, brothers and I going to bow  
before you? *(thinks about it)* Hum . . . .

### Storyteller 2

Jacob had so many flocks and herds  
that it was necessary for Jacob's  
shepherd sons to go far away to find  
enough water and pastures.  
And they could be gone a long time.

### Jacob/Israel

Gen. 37:12,13

Joseph, your brothers have taken  
our flocks to Shechem *(SHEK ehm)*  
to find pasture. Get ready. I need you  
to go check on them and the flocks.

### Joseph

I'm ready!

### Jacob/Israel

Gen. 37:14a

Find them, see how they  
and the flocks are doing.  
Bring word back to me.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 37:14b-17

It was a long way to Shechem (*SHEK ehm*). When I got here they had gone to other pastures. I did find them but they were not glad to see me.

**Dan**  
Gen. 37:2

Look, there is someone coming. I know by the colors of his robe that it's our little brother, that tattletail!

**Asher**  
Gen. 37:2

Father must have sent him to check on us. We don't need any more of his spying do we Naphtali (*NAF tuh ligh*)?

**Levi**

Spying and tattling? What are you talking about?

**Dan**  
Gen. 37:2

One day Father sent little brother Joseph to help Naphtali (*NAF tuh ligh*), Asher, Gad, and me. He saw us do something we should not have done. He just could not wait to report it to Father!

**Storyteller 3**  
Gen. 37:18-21

Before he got to their camp, Joseph's brothers decided to kill him and throw his body into a pit. They were jealous and hated him because he was their father's favorite son. When Reuben, the oldest son, heard what they wanted to do, he tried to save Joseph. Reuben planned to get him out of the pit and take him back to his father.

**Reuben**  
Gen. 37:21,22

Don't kill him. Don't shed his blood or hurt him. Just throw him in the pit.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 37:23-25a

What a welcome I got! They took off my beautiful robe and threw me into an empty pit. Then they sat down and ate lunch. They were glad to have the fig cakes I brought them, but I got nothing!

**Judah**  
Gen. 37:25b-27

I see a camel caravan heading this way. They will be going to Egypt with trade goods to sell. Let's see if they will buy a strong, young slave. It's better to get some money for him than for him to die in the pit.

**Storyteller 4**  
Gen. 37:29-35

Reuben was working away from their camp when the traders bought Joseph. When he returned the traders were gone and he was not able to rescue Joseph. His brothers put goat's blood on Joseph's robe, tore it and sent it to their father, saying they had found it.

Israel thought a wild animal had killed Joseph. He cried for his son and would not be comforted.

**Storyteller 5**  
Gen. 37:28-36  
Gen. 39:1-6a  
Gen. 39:10-23

His brothers sold Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. He became a slave in the house of Potiphar (*POT in fur*), a captain in Pharaoh's guard. God was with him and he was successful in all he did. Potiphar put him in charge of his house and all his affairs.

When Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph he was sent to prison. God was with him there too. Soon he was put in charge of all the prisoners and everything done there.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 40  
Gen. 41:9-13

Two prisoners, Pharaoh's cupbearer and his baker, had dreams that were strange and I asked God to tell me their meanings. I told both of them the meaning of their dreams. I asked the cupbearer to tell Pharaoh about me when he went back to his job serving Pharaoh.

But the cupbearer forgot me. I stayed in prison two more years, then Pharaoh had a dream. No one could tell Pharaoh what his dream meant. That's when the cupbearer remembered me.

**Pharaoh**  
Gen. 41:14

Send for this Joseph, the Hebrew prisoner who can tell what dreams mean.

**Storyteller 6**  
Gen. 41:14

Joseph was quickly brought from the dungeon. He cleaned up and shaved, changed his clothes, and went to see Pharaoh. He bowed down before Pharaoh.

**Pharaoh**  
Gen. 41:15

I have had a dream and no one has been able to tell me what it means. I have been told that you know what dreams mean.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 41:16

I am not the one who can tell. It is God who will give Pharaoh the answer.

**Pharaoh**  
Gen. 41:17-24

In my dream I was standing beside the Nile river. Seven well-fed, healthy cows came up from the Nile and began to eat. Then seven ugly, sickly, thin cows came up and ate the healthy cows. After they ate they were as thin as before. I woke up, then fell asleep and dreamed again. I saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on one stalk. Then seven heads, dried up and thin, grew and swallowed the full heads.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 41:25-32

Pharaoh's two dreams mean the same thing. God is telling you what He is about to do. Seven good cows and seven good heads of grain are seven years of good crops with more than enough food. Seven thin, ugly cows and seven bad heads of grain are seven years of famine and starvation. Two dreams with the same message means God has decided and will do it soon.

**Storyteller 7**  
Gen. 33-38

Joseph told Pharaoh to find a wise, capable man and put him in charge of Egypt's food. He should choose overseers who will take one fifth of the harvest and all the extra food that grows during the seven years of plenty and store it for the time of famine. Pharaoh was pleased with the plan. He and his advisers thought Joseph was the man who should be in charge of Egypt's food.

**Pharaoh**  
Gen. 41:39,40

Joseph, your God has made all this known to you, so there is no man as wise as you. I appoint you to be in charge of collecting and storing food for the coming famine. It is an important job. In all of Egypt only I will be greater than you.

**Storyteller 8**  
Gen. 41:41-44

So Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all Egypt. He took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand. He gave Joseph fine clothes and put a gold chain around his neck. Pharaoh gave Joseph his second best chariot to use.

\* **Joseph**  
Gen. 41:45,50-52

Pharaoh gave me an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah (*zaf EE nath – pan EE uh*), and a Egyptian wife, Asenath (*ASS eh nath*). We have two sons, Manasseh (*muh NASS uh*) and Ephraim (*EE frith ihm*).

**Storyteller 9**  
Gen. 41:47-49;  
Gen. 41:53,54

During the seven years of plenty, granaries were built for grain storage. The grain harvests were so large they could no longer be measured. Officials stopped counting.

Then the years of plenty ended. There was famine in every country. Only in Egypt was there food.

**Storyteller 10**  
Gen. 41:56-57

When the people of Egypt had eaten all the food they had stored in their homes, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold them food. The famine spread across the whole earth. People from all over the world came to buy grain from Joseph.

**Jacob/Israel**  
Gen. 42:1-4

I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us; so we can eat and live. All 10 of you older sons should go so you can get food for your families. Benjamin will stay with me. I do not want anything to happen to him.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 42:5-9a; 23

I knew my brothers when I saw them. Of course they did not know me. I was dressed as an Egyptian, spoke the Egyptian language and had an important job, second only to Pharaoh. When they bowed before me, I couldn't help but remember my boyhood dreams.

**Storyteller 11**  
Gen. 42:12-17

Joseph wanted to find out if his brothers were still the jealous, angry and uncaring men he remembered. He would test them. He put them in prison for three days.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 42:18-20

You are spies. You are here to see the weakness of our land.

One of you will stay here in the guardhouse. Tie up this man. When you come again to buy food you must bring your youngest brother with you to prove you are not spies.

*Simonee is tied up*

**Storyteller 12**  
Gen. 42:23-35

On the way home each man found the money he had paid for food was now in his grain sack. They had not stolen it. They were frightened.

**Judah**  
Gen. 43:1-10

Father, we must go to get more food. Benjamin must go too, or we will not see the ruler. I will be responsible for Benjamin. If he does not go, we can not get food. All of us will die.

**Jacob/Israel**  
Gen. 43:11-14

If you must take him, then take some gifts, the finest products we have. Take honey, almonds and pistachio nuts. Take twice the money and return the money from your sacks. They took Benjamin, gifts and extra money and went to Egypt.

**Storyteller 12**  
Gen. 43:20-26

Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them. He had them brought to his house for a meal. They told a servant about the money in their sacks. "Your God must have put it there. I got your money." At dinner they were seated by their ages, oldest to youngest. They bowed and gave him their gifts.

**Storyteller 13**  
Gen. 44:18-34

Joseph found out that his brothers loved Benjamin, even if he was his father's favorite now. They would take Benjamin's punishment so their father would not be sad.

*Storyteller 13  
continued on  
next page*

**Storyteller 13**  
Gen. 45:1  
Joseph sent everyone out of the room except his brothers.

**Joseph**  
Gen. 45:1-15

I am Joseph! Is my father still living? Don't be afraid. I am Joseph, your brother, the one you sold into Egypt. Don't worry or be angry with yourselves. You may have thought it was your idea to send me to Egypt. But is was God's plan for me to be here. God used me to help Pharaoh prepare for this terrible famine.

Go back to our father and tell him, "Your son Joseph is ruler over Egypt. He asks us to bring our families and herds and come to live in Egypt. The famine will last five more years, but here we will have food." Bring my father to Egypt quickly. Joseph hugged and kissed Benjamin and each of his brothers as he wept.

**Storyteller 14**  
Gen. 45: 16-23  
Pharaoh also invited Joseph 's father and brothers and their families to live in Egypt. and gave them land for their animals. Pharaoh told Joseph to take wagons from Egypt so the women and young children could ride. Joseph sent gifts to his father. As the brothers started back to Canaan to get their families, Joseph smiled and said to them,

**Joseph**  
Gen. 45:24HCSB

Don't argue on the way.

**Storyteller 15**  
Gen. 45:25

The brothers were so excited with the news they had for their father. Both Simeon and Benjamin were with them and Benjamin was not harmed.

**Levi**  
Gen. 45:26

Father, Joseph is still alive! He is ruler over all the land of Egypt.

**Storyteller 16**  
Gen. 45:26-28

Jacob did not believe what he heard. Joseph is alive? When the brothers told what Joseph had said to them and he saw the wagons Joseph had sent, he got excited. He said, "My son Joseph is alive. I will go see him."

**Jacob/Israel**  
Gen. 46:1-4

We stopped at Beer-sheba (*BEE ehr SHE buh*) to worship the God of my father Isaac. That night God spoke to me in a vision. God told me not to be afraid to go to Egypt. He said, "I will make you a great nation there. I will go with you, and I will bring you back.

**Storyteller 17**  
Gen. 46:26,29,30

His sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters, 66 people, went with Jacob. Joseph got in his chariot and went to meet his father. How happy the two were to see each other again! They cried tears of joy.

**Storyteller 18**

Gen. 48:13-20;  
Gen. 49:29-33;  
Gen. 50:7-13

Before he died Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, giving the greater blessing to Ephraim, the younger son. He blessed each of his own 12 sons. When Jacob died at age 147, Joseph and his brothers took him back to Canaan and buried him in the cave where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah are buried. Many people from Pharaoh's court, friends, officials and families took chariots and horses for the very large funeral procession.

**Asher**

Gen. 50:15

Now that our father is dead, do you think Joseph will want to pay us back for the things we did to him?

**Simeon**

Gen. 50:16

Let's tell him, "Before he died, father told us to say to you, 'Please forgive your brothers for the wrongs they did to you.'"

**Storyteller 18**

Gen. 50:16-18

His brothers came to him, bowed and said, "We are your slaves."

**Joseph**

Gen. 50:19-21  
finds his brothers

My brothers, don't be afraid. You planned evil against me, but God planned it for good.

Promise to do this for me.

When God takes you out of Egypt, take my bones with you.

The End

# The Family God Chose to Bless the World

*Play #4 in series of 5*  
**Joseph and Family**

27 Characters in Order of Appearance:

- Storyteller 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Joseph \_\_\_\_\_
- Levi \_\_\_\_\_
- Simeon \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jacob/Israel \_\_\_\_\_
- Dan \_\_\_\_\_
- Asher \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Reuben \_\_\_\_\_
- Judah \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Pharaoh \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 11 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 16 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Storyteller 18 \_\_\_\_\_