Lesson Text: Genesis 37:2-11, 23-24, 28

King James Version (KJV)

I. JOSEPH FAVORED AND HATED (Genesis 37:2-4)

2. These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

4. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

II. JOSEPH SHARES HIS DREAM (Genesis 37:5-11)

5. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which
I have dreamed:

7. For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

9. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

10. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

11. And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

III. JOSEPH DESPISED AND DISPATCHED (Genesis 37:23-24, 28)

23. And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his
brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24. And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

28. Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

New International Version (NIV)

I. JOSEPH FAVORED AND HATED (Genesis 37:2-4)

2. This is the account of Jacob’s family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

3. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate[a] robe for him.

4. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.
II. JOSEPHSHARES HIS DREAM (Genesis 37:5-11)

5. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

6. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had:

7. We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

8. His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

10. When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”

11. His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

III. JOSEPH DESPISED AND DISPATCHED (Genesis
37:23-24, 28)

23. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—

24. and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

28. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels[^1] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

PRACTICAL POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. It is always best to report sinful or evil actions, but be ready to face all the consequences (Genesis 37:2).

2. We do our children great harm when we favor one above another, for such favoritism never goes unnoticed (Genesis 37:3-4).

3. Parental favoritism usually leads to unfavorable sibling interactions (Genesis 37:5).

4. True wisdom is knowing when to speak and when to be
quiet (Genesis 37:6-8; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7).

5. Pay attention to what you say and when and how you say it (Genesis 37:9-11).

6. It is dangerous to harbor hatred toward others in our hearts because it will lead us to commit other sins (Genesis 37:23-24).

7. The sinful condition of our hearts is revealed when we participate in evil plots against others (Genesis 37:28).

***The International Sunday School Lesson Curriculum***