

1.

Joseph's father gave him a very special coat. Joseph had 11 brothers who were jealous that he got the coat and their father's attention. It made them even more angry when Joseph told them he had dreams that they would all bow down to him someday.

So, the brothers took Joseph's coat, beat him up, and threw him down a well. When traders came by, the brothers sold Joseph to them, and the traders took him to Egypt. Joseph became a slave to a high-ranking official in Egypt named Potiphar. Joseph decided to do the best he could regardless of his circumstance. He did such a good job, that Potiphar put him in charge!

2.

Potiphar's wife made up lies about Joseph, and because of that, Potiphar threw him in jail. While Joseph was in jail, God helped him interpret two dreams of some fellow inmates: Pharaoh's royal drink tester and baker. Joseph told them what their dreams meant, and he was exactly right.

The royal drink tester was let out of jail and served Pharaoh for two years when suddenly, Pharaoh had a horrible dream. The drink tester remembered Joseph, told the Pharaoh, and Joseph came to the Pharaoh and interpreted his dream.

In the dream, God was telling Pharaoh that there would be plenty of food for seven years, followed by a famine for seven years after that. There would be no food for seven years. Pharaoh was so impressed by Joseph that he put him in charge of getting Egypt ready for the famine. Joseph was now second in command over all of Egypt!

3.

When the food shortage hit, Egypt and every nation around it was struggling. The famine reached all the way to the country where Joseph's father and brothers lived. So, Joseph's brothers traveled to EGYPT to buy food. They had no idea that Joseph was there, or that he was in charge of the food. They visited Joseph twice and never knew it was him.

When Joseph finally told his brothers who he was, they were terrified. In this moment, Joseph did something amazing. He looked at his brothers and forgave them!

4.

Even though Joseph's brothers meant to do him harm, God was using the hard things to accomplish something good. Joseph faced a lot of tough times. His brothers tried to get rid of him, he was sold to work as a slave, and he was thrown into jail for something he didn't do. BUT God had a plan.

The Bible says over and over that that "God was with Joseph." God was with Joseph when he was serving Potiphar, God was with Joseph when he was in prison, and God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dream. God used the hard times Joseph went through to lead him to become second in charge of Egypt and save his family—and Jesus would come from this very same family. God was even using the hard times for our rescue!

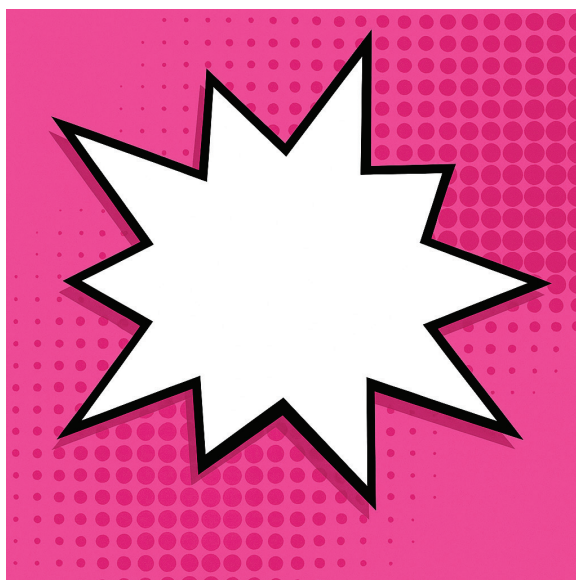
What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart, one set for each Small Group.

"Joseph's Story" Activity Page

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What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut apart, four sets for each Small Group.