



Lesson 9

Genesis 50:20a

"You planned to harm me [Joseph]. But God planned it for good."

Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

Genesis 37:12–36

¹²Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks near Shechem. ¹³Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are taking care of the flocks near Shechem. Come. I'm going to send you to them."

"All right," Joseph replied.

¹⁴So Israel said to him, "Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me." So he sent him away from the Hebron Valley.

Joseph arrived at Shechem. ¹⁵A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?"

¹⁷"They've moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went to look for his brothers. He found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him.

¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one another. ²⁰"Come. Let's kill him. Let's throw him into one of these empty wells. Let's say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we'll see whether his dreams will come true."

²¹Reuben heard them talking. He tried to save Joseph from them. "Let's not take his life," he said.

²²"Don't spill any of his blood. Throw him into this empty well here in the desert. But don't harm him yourselves." Reuben said that to save Joseph from them. He was hoping he could take him back to his father.

²³When Joseph came to his brothers, he was wearing his beautiful robe. They took it away from him.

²⁴And they threw him into the well. The well was empty. There wasn't any water in it.

²⁵Then they sat down to eat their meal. As they did, they saw some Ishmaelite traders coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, lotion and myrrh. They were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and try to cover up what we've done? ²⁷Come. Let's sell him to these traders. Let's not harm him ourselves. After all, he's our brother. He's our own flesh and blood." Judah's brothers agreed with him.

²⁸The traders from Midian came by. Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the well. They sold him to the Ishmaelite traders for eight ounces of silver. Then the traders took him to Egypt.

²⁹Later, Reuben came back to the empty well. He saw that Joseph wasn't there. He was so upset that he tore his clothes. ³⁰He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Now what should I do?"



³¹Then they got Joseph's beautiful robe. They killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They took the robe back to their father. They said, "We found this. Take a look at it. See if it's your son's robe."

³³Jacob recognized it. He said, "It's my son's robe! A wild animal has eaten him up. Joseph must have been torn to pieces."



³⁴Jacob tore his clothes. He put on the rough clothing people wear when they're sad. Then he mourned for his son many days. ³⁵All Jacob's other sons and daughters came to comfort him. But they weren't able to. He said, "I will continue to mourn until I go down into the grave to be with my son." So Joseph's father mourned for him.

³⁶But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's officials. He was the captain of the palace guard.

Questions

- 1 When these events took place, where were Joseph's brothers? Joseph's brothers were taking _____ of their father's _____ near _____. (Gen. 37:12)
- 2 Where was Joseph? Joseph was at **h**_____ with his father. (Gen. 37:13)
- 3 What did Jacob/Israel ask Joseph to do? Israel asked Joseph to _____ to his brothers, _____ how they and the flocks were doing, and then come back and tell him. (Gen. 37:14)
- 4 Did Joseph find his brothers when he arrived at Shechem? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:15–16)
- 5 What was Joseph doing when a man spotted him? Joseph was _____ around in the _____. (Gen. 37:15)
- 6 What did the man say to Joseph when Joseph asked the man if he knew where Joseph's brothers were? The man told Joseph that Joseph's brothers had _____ on and that he had heard them say they were going to go to _____. (Gen. 37:17)
- 7 Did Joseph ever find his brothers? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:17)
- 8 Where did Joseph find his brothers? He found them _____ Dothan. (Gen. 37:17)
- 9 When did Joseph's brothers first see Joseph? They first saw Joseph when he was a _____ way off. (Gen. 37:18)
- 10 What did Joseph's brothers make plans to do, once they saw Joseph coming? They made plans to _____ Joseph. (Gen. 37:18)
- 11 What *sarcastic* name did the brothers call Joseph? They called him, "That _____." (Gen. 37:19)
- 12 What did the brothers plan on doing with Joseph's body after they killed him? They planned on _____ Joseph's body into one of the nearby empty _____. (Gen. 37:20)
- 13 What lie were the brothers planning on telling to cover up the murder of Joseph, their brother? They were going to say a _____ animal _____ Joseph up. (Gen. 37:20)

- 14 What didn't the brothers want to come true? The brothers didn't want Joseph's _____ to come true. (Gen. 37:20)
- 15 Which brother didn't want to kill Joseph? _____, Leah's first son and the oldest of all the brothers, didn't want to kill Joseph. (Gen. 37:21)
- 16 How did Reuben try to save Joseph from his brothers? Reuben told his brothers **n** _____ to harm Joseph themselves, but to just _____ him alive into the empty well in the desert. That way, Reuben could return later and take Joseph _____ to their father. (Gen. 37:22)
- 17 What was Joseph wearing when he came to his brothers? Joseph was wearing his _____ robe. (Gen. 37:23)
- 18 What was the first thing Joseph's brothers did when Joseph came to them? They took his **r** _____ away from him. (Gen. 37:23)
- 19 Was the well empty of water when the brothers threw Joseph into it? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:24)
- 20 What did Joseph's brothers do after they threw Joseph into the well? They _____ down to _____ their meal. (Gen. 37:25)
- 21 What did the brothers see while they were eating? While the brothers were eating, they saw some Ishmaelite _____ coming from Gilead. (Gen. 37:25)



Ishmaelites are descendants of Abraham and Hagar's son, Ishmael.

- 22 Where were the Ishmaelite traders going? They were going to _____. (Gen. 37:25)
- 23 What did the Ishmaelite traders have with them? They had _____, _____, and _____ (a type of perfume or medicine). (Gen. 37:25)
- 24 Which other brother didn't want to kill Joseph? _____, Leah's fourth son, didn't want to kill Joseph. (Gen. 37:26)
- 25 Did Judah plan on bringing Joseph back to their father like Reuben was planning? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:27)
- 26 What was Judah's plan? Judah wanted to _____ Joseph to the Ishmaelite traders. (Gen. 37:27)
- 27 Did the other brothers agree? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:27)
- 28 How much did the brothers sell Joseph for? The brothers sold Joseph for _____ ounces of _____. (Gen. 37:28)

- 29 What was Reuben's response when he came back later to the empty well and saw that Joseph wasn't there? Reuben was very _____, so upset that he _____ his clothes. (Gen. 37:29)
- 30 What did the brothers do with Joseph's beautiful robe? They killed a _____ and dipped the robe in the _____. Then they took the robe back to their father and asked him to _____ at it to see if it was Joseph's robe. (Gen. 37:31–32)
- 31 What did Jacob/Israel do when he saw Joseph's robe covered in blood? Jacob _____ his clothes, put on the _____ clothing people wear when they're sad, and _____ for his son _____ days. (Gen. 37:34)
- 32 Who tried to comfort Jacob? All Jacob's _____ and _____ tried to comfort him. (Gen. 37:35)



But not one of Jacob's sons—not even Reuben—told his father the truth that Joseph was still alive.

- 33 Were Jacob's remaining sons and daughters able to comfort Jacob? (Yes/No) _____. (Gen. 37:35)
- 34 How long did Jacob say he would mourn for his son? Jacob said he would continue to mourn until he went _____ into the _____ to be with his son. (Gen. 37:35)
- 35 Whom did the Ishmaelite traders sell Joseph to? They sold Joseph to _____ in Egypt. (Gen. 37:36)
- 36 Who was Potiphar? Potiphar was one of _____ officials and the _____ of the palace _____. (Gen. 37:36)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God's Word?
