**Heroes Series Week 1: Joseph**

Welcome to the Heroes series for term 4 at His Youth.

Video: Heroes. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7-WjgYpBYo

This term for eight weeks we will be looking at various everyday heroes in the Bible to see what we can learn from their lives. We will alternate between male and female characters each week as we look at Joseph, Rebekah, Daniel, Hannah, Jonah, Ruth, Peter and Esther.

Today we kick off the Heroes series by looking at the life of Joseph.

We will soon see that this was a remarkable life that can teach us many great lessons for life.

Video: Joseph. Get it at: http://www.danstevers.com/store/joseph/

Part 1: Connecting with Joseph. Teens visit different stations to explore the story – they are given a sheet of paper to record insights they gain along the way about what they learn form the story of Joseph. We will have 3 comic stations, 3 video stations and 3 reading stations.

Reading Station #1: The Story of Joseph (AM1 and AM2 read by Thabile or Hannes)

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name is Jacob, and they lived in Canaan from where his grandfather was from.

Joseph was seventeen (old enough to drive a car these days), and he had eleven brothers; and only had one brother younger than him. Can you imagine having eleven brothers to play with, or fight with? Because Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent more time with him, and he became very special to him.

So Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. (They didn't have jackets back then, so this was a very special jacket). It was very beautiful and had every color you could imagine in it.

All of Joseph's older brothers saw this and they got very jealous. The word jealous means that Joseph's brothers disliked him because they thought his father liked him more, and because he got the special coat. They got so jealous they couldn't even say a kind word to him.

One day Joseph had a dream, and he went to go tell his brothers. He said, "Guess what? Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me." The brothers looked at each other in disgust, but Joseph continued. "Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me."

"Who do you think you are?" The brothers said. "Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?" This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more.

When he told his father about his dreams he said, "Those are strange dreams." But he thought carefully about what Joseph had told him.

A few days later Joseph's father asked him to check on his brothers. They were in the fields quite a distance away. So Joseph went to find them.

When the brothers saw Joseph in the distance, they made a plan to kill him. But when Reuben, Joseph's oldest brother heard this he said, "Let's not kill him, just throw him in a well out here in the field." He said this because he was secretly planning to come back and rescue Joseph when the other brothers had left.

So when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful robe and they threw him in an empty well. A little while later a group of people came by that were wanting to sell some things in Egypt. One of the brothers spoke up, "Why don't we sell him to these people, this way we never have to see him again, and we don't have to kill him."

The other brothers liked this idea, so they sold him to the people who were going to Egypt.

Unfortunately Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what happened. When he returned to the well he noticed that Joseph was gone. He had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, an assistant to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in animal blood and took it back to their father. When the father saw this he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days, so much that nobody could comfort him.

Now Joseph had started out as a slave, but the Lord was with Joseph and He helped him do everything right. So Potiphar made him his helper, and put him in charge of everything that he owned.

The problem came when Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph to her husband, so Potiphar had Joseph put into jail.

The Lord was still with Joseph in jail, and the warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. He never worried because the Lord was with Joseph and helped him do everything right.

After Joseph had been in jail for some time a cupbearer and baker to Pharaoh had been sent there. One night each of them had a dream. They told their dreams to Joseph and he told the cupbearer that he would soon be let out of jail. "Please tell Pharaoh about me, and ask him to get me out of here." Joseph said.

When the cupbearer was freed he forgot about what Joseph did. So Joseph stayed in jail for two more years. Until one day the Pharaoh had a dream, and nobody could explain it to him. The cupbearer then remembered what Joseph had done for him, and Joseph was brought to Pharaoh.

"Can you understand dreams?" Pharaoh asked. "I can't, but God helps me." Joseph replied. After Pharaoh had told him his dream Joseph explained, "God is warning you. There will be seven years when nothing will grow and there won't be any food for anyone."

"What can I do?" Pharaoh asked. "God has shown you what to do. There will be seven years before the bad years that will be very good. So good that there will be extra food for everyone. So you should save a little bit of each years harvest, that way you will have enough to get you through the bad years." Joseph said.

Pharaoh believed all that Joseph told him, and put him in charge of all the land of Egypt.

People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because the whole world was in need of food. Some of those people were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph recognized them, but they did not know who he was. (It had been over 10 years since they had seen him).

The brothers all bowed to him because he was an important person. Just as he dreamed they would at the beginning.

After a few meetings with his brothers he could not keep it in any longer and Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.

Reading Station #2: Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors

Many years ago there were twelve brothers. They lived in a hot and sunny land called Canaan, and they were farmers. Their father was called Jacob, and his two last sons were born when he was already extremely old; their names were Joseph and Benjamin, and the two youngest were by far the favourites of the old man – so much so, that their older brothers became quite envious of them.

Joseph was a dreamy boy, and his brothers were always teasing him for having his ‘head in the clouds’ and not paying attention to what was going on around him. In fact, Joseph noticed everything, and when his brothers neglected their work or did something wrong, he told their father all about it. The brothers were furious with him for getting them into trouble.

On Joseph’s seventeenth birthday, Jacob gave him a magnificent present. It was a coat woven with a beautiful pattern that contained many different colours. Joseph loved the coat, but when his older brothers saw it they became even more jealous, and their dislike for him grew even stronger!

One day they were out in the fields, and Joseph started to tell his brothers about the dream he had the previous night.

In the dream, the brothers had been gathering the wheat in the fields and tying them up into bundles called sheaves. Joseph’s sheaf stood up as if it were alive, and all his brothers’ sheaves bowed down before it.

When Joseph had finished telling the dream his brothers were deeply offended and insulted!

“What is the meaning of this dream?” they said. “That you shall rule over us, and we shall bow down before you? How dare you dream such a dream? You should shut up and do as you’re told.”

A few nights later, Joseph had another dream. This time he told it to his entire family while they were eating their meal. He dreamed that he had stood on a mountain top, and the sun, the moon and all the stars had bowed down before him.

This dream was too much, even for his old father.

“This is a very unbelievable, crazy dream, young man,” he said. “Do you mean that your father, mother, and all your brothers should bow down before you? You’d better not dream such a dream again, or you may regret it.”

When the older brothers saw how angry their father was with Joseph, they were pleased, but soon their dad went back to favouring Joseph above all the others, so they went back to hating Joseph.

One day, the brothers went to tend to their flocks in some far away pastures. Benjamin was still too young to go out and work, but Jacob sent Joseph to join the older brothers. He put on his coat of many colours and went out to look for them. The brothers spotted him from far off, and while he was still approaching they planned a plot against him.

“Oh no, here comes the dreamer boy,” said one. “Let’s kill him, and throw him in a pit. We will tell father that a wild beast ate him up.”

Reuben, who was the oldest, decided to save Joseph. He said, “No, let’s not be so mean that we kill him. He’s an annoying little pest, but he is still our brother. Let’s drop him in a pit and leave him as food for the animals. That way we can truthfully tell father that it was not we who killed him, but the wild beasts.”

Secretly, Reuben planned to come back later and rescue Joseph from the pit before any great harm came to him.

So when Joseph arrived and said, “Here I am. Would you like to hear what I dreamed last night?”

The brothers said, “Did you dream this little brother?” They seized him, stripped him of his coat of many colours and slung him into a hole in the ground. It was a deep pit with no water in it, and if the wild beasts did not eat him, he would surely die of thirst before too long, for it was a baking hot country, on the edge of the desert.

Pleased with their plan, the brothers sat down to eat their lunch. While they were eating, some traveling merchants came by. Their camels were loaded with spices, balms, and myrrh for perfumes, which they were carrying to Egypt.

Now the brothers planned a second plot. Judah said, “Come, what’s in it for us if we just leave our brother to die? Let us at least make some profit out of him – it will be the first and last time that he brings any good to us. We’ll sell him to these merchants, and they can take him as a slave to Egypt.”

The others agreed that it was a fine plan, and so they sold Joseph to the merchants for twenty pieces of silver. Then they killed a goat and dipped Joseph’s coat in the blood. They took the coat to their father, and explained that his favourite son, Joseph, had been killed by a wild animal. Their father Jacob wept and tore his hair out with great sadness, saying that he could never be happy again because of this news. The brothers were, however, happy that they were rid of him, and had made some money too.

The merchants took Joseph to the land of Egypt, which was ruled by a magnificent king, called a Pharaoh. There they sold him to Potiphar, who was captain of the Pharaoh’s bodyguard. Joseph served his new master well, and was well liked by him. Then one day, when Potiphar was gone from the palace, his wife tried to kiss Joseph. Joseph said, “No way!” …And ran away from her. When Potiphar came back, his wife lied and made up stories about Joseph attacking her. When Potiphar heard all this, he ordered Joseph to be arrested and thrown in jail.

Joseph lived in the dungeon jail with two other men. One of the men had been the Pharaoh’s chief servant, called a butler. The other had been his baker. Both men had done some small things to annoy the Pharaoh, and had been thrown into prison as a result.

One morning, the butler said, “I had such a strange dream last night. I only wish that there was somebody here who could tell me it’s meaning.”

Joseph replied that he understood dreams, and begged the butler to tell it to him, which he did. He said, “In my dream I was walking through a vineyard. I came to an especially wonderful vine, which had three branches loaded with bright juicy fruit. I picked the grapes off these three branches, and made them into wine. I poured the wine into a cup, took it to the Pharaoh, and he drank it.”

“Well,” said Joseph. I can tell you the meaning of your dream. The three branches are three days, and in three days’ time, you shall be restored to your former job and you will serve wine into the Pharaoh’s hand.”

The butler thanked Joseph, and promised to remember him when he was free.

The next night the baker had a dream. He dreamed that that he was carrying three white baskets in a pile on his head. They were filled with all sorts of delicious pastries and pies, and he meant to take them to the Pharaoh, but before he could arrive, a flock of birds flew down and ate all the bread.

“Indeed,” said Joseph, “I can tell you the meaning of your dream. The three baskets are three days, and in three days time the guard will come and chop off your head.”

It all happened just as Joseph had said. The baker was executed, and the butler was restored to his former position. But for two whole years the butler did not remember Joseph, until one day the Pharaoh said to his advisers:

“I had the strangest dream last night. I was standing by the river and seven fat, happy looking cows came out of the water and started to eat the grass by the bank. Then a little later, seven thin and awful looking cows came out from the water, and they ate up the fat cows. It was so weird. If only some wise man could tell me what it means.”

But none of the Pharaoh’s helpers could interpret the dream. The Butler, who was standing near by, heard this. He remembered Joseph in the prison cell. Then he said, “Sir, if you’ll permit me to speak. Some years ago, in your vast wisdom, your Magnificence saw fit to throw your butler and your baker into the dungeon. There we met a man who listened to our dreams and understood our fates, and all the dreams came true exactly as he had predicted.”

When he heard this, the Pharaoh sent for Joseph. The guards took Joseph from the dungeon, made sure that he was washed, shaved and dressed in fresh clothes, and brought him before the Pharaoh.

Joseph listened to the Pharaoh’s dream about the seven fat cows and the seven thin cows, and he told him exactly what it meant: that there would be seven years of plenty and then seven years of drought. Pharaoh should find someone to create a plan to save food in the years of plenty.

The Pharaoh listened to the words of Joseph, and wondered whom he could appoint to oversee such an important task. After thinking very long and hard, he decided that he knew of no wiser man than Joseph himself.

And so Joseph became chief minister, and was the most important person in all of Egypt, except for the Pharaoh of course. Everything happened as he had predicted. There were seven good years followed by seven bad years, but nobody starved in the land because he had saved up enough food during the good times.

However, back in the land of Canaan, Josephs family had not stored up any food, and they did not have enough to eat. Joseph’s dad, Jacob, sent his ten eldest sons to Egypt to buy some food before they starved to death. He ordered that Benjamin, the youngest, stay at home, because he could not risk losing another son like Joseph.

The brothers came to the Egyptian court, and stood before Joseph. They did not recognise their brother whom they had not seen since he was a young boy of seventeen, and whom they had sold into slavery. The man they were looking at was a magnificent important official, and they bowed down before him, just as Joseph had predicted they would do, many, many years before.

To cut a long story short Joseph decided to test his brothers to see if they had changed and when he was convinced that they had changed he stood up from his throne and came down to hug his brothers. All of a sudden, they recognised him.

They all cried so loudly that even the Pharaoh heard them. Eventually Joseph told his brothers to go home to their father and let him know that he was alive, and was the second most important man in all Egypt. They must all return and live close by him. He would protect them, and make sure that they had enough to eat during the years of famine.

Reading Station #3: Joseph: The Prince of Egypt

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he had been born to him when he was old. He made a long robe with full sleeves for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them, they hated their brother so much that they would not speak to him in a friendly manner.

One time Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. He said, "Listen to the dream I had. We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat, when my sheaf got up and stood up straight. Yours formed a circle around mine and bowed down to it."

"Do you think you are going to be a king and rule over us?" his brothers asked. So they hated him even more because of his dreams and because of what he said about them.

Then Joseph had another dream and told his brothers, "I had another dream, in which I saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to me." He also told the dream to his father, and his father scolded him: "What kind of a dreams that? Do you think that your mother, your brothers, and I are going to come and bow down to you?" Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept thinking about the whole matter.

One day when Joseph's brothers had gone to Shechem to take care of their father's flock, Jacob said to Joseph, "I want you to go to Shechem, where your brothers are taking care of the flock." So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. Come on now, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the dry wells. We can say that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

Reuben heard them and tried to save Joseph. "Let's not kill him," he said. "Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him." he said this, planning to save him from them and send him back to his father.

When Joseph came up to his brothers, they ripped off his long robe with full sleeves. Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry. While they were eating, they suddenly saw a group of Ishmaelite traveling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were loaded with spices and resins. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother and covering up the murder? Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites. Then we won't have to hurt him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed, and when some Midianite traders came by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelite, who took him to Egypt.

When Reuben came back to the well and found that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes in sorrow. he returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there! What an I going to do?" Then they killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. They took the robe to their father and said, "We found this. Does it belong to your son?" He recognized it and said, "Yes, it is his! Some wild animal has killed him. My son Joseph has been torn to pieces!"

Jacob tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth. He mourned for his son a long time. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, " I will go down to the world of the dead still mourning for my son." So he continued to mourn for his son Joseph.

Meanwhile, in Egypt the Midianites had sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the king's officers who was the captain of the palace guard. Now the Ishmaelite had taken Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, one of the king's officers, who was the captain of the palace guard.

The LORD was with Joseph and made him successful. He lived in the house of his Egyptian master, who saw that the LORD was with Joseph and had made his successful in everything he did. Potiphar was pleased with him and made him his personal servant; so he put him in charge of his house and everything he owned. From then on, because of Joseph the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian and everything that he had in his house and in his fields. Potiphar turned over anything except the food he ate.

Joseph was well-built and good-looking, and after a while his master's wife began to desire Joseph and asked him to go to bed with her. He refused and said to her, "Look, my master does not have to concern himself with anything in the house, because I am here. He has put me in charge of everything he has. I have as much authority in this house as he has, and he has not kept back anything from me except you. How then could I do such an immoral thing and sin against God?" Although she asked Joseph day after day, he would not go to bed with her.

But one day when Joseph went into the house to do his work, none of the house servants was there. She caught him by his robe and said, "Come to be with me." But he escaped and ran out side, leaving his robe in her hand. When she saw that he had left his robe and had run out of the house, she called to her house servants and said, "Look at this! This Hebrew that my husband brought to the house is insulting us. He came into my room and tried to rape me, but I screamed as loud as I could. When he heard me scream, he ran outside, leaving his robe beside me."

She kept his robe with her until Joseph's master came home. Then she told him the same story: "That Hebrew slave that you brought here came into my room and insulted me. But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his robe beside me." Joseph's master was furious and had Joseph arrested and put in the prison where the king's prisoners were kept, and there he stayed.

But the LORD was with Joseph and blessed him, so that the jailer was pleased with him. He put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and made him responsible for everything that was done in the prison. The jailer did not have to look after anything for which Joseph was responsible, because the LORD was with Joseph and made him succeed in everything he did.

Some time later Joseph was able to interpret the dreams of the wine steward and his chief baker who had been thrown into prison. He asked the chief baker to remember him when he was released from prison – but he forgot about Joseph when he got out of prison.

After two years had passed, the king of Egypt dreamed that he was standing by the Nile River, when seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the river and began to feed on the grass. Then seven other cows came up; they were thin and bony. They came and stood by the other cows on the riverbank, and the thin cows ate up the fat cows. Then the king woke up. He fell asleep again and had another dream. Seven heads of grain, full and ripe, were growing on one stalk. Then seven other heads of grain sprouted, thin and scorched by the desert wind, and the thin heads of grain swallowed the full ones. The king woke up and realized that he had been dreaming. In the morning he was worried, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. He told them his dreams, but no one could explain them to him.

Then the wine steward said to the king, "I must confess today that I have done wrong. You were angry with the chief baker and me, and you put us in prison in the house of the captain of the guard. On night each of us had a dream, and the drams had different meanings. A young Hebrew was there with us, a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our drams, and he interpreted them for us. Things turned out just as he said: you restored me to my position, but you executed the baker."

The king sent for Joseph, and he was immediately brought form the prison. After he had shaved and charged his clothes, he came in to the king's presence. The king said to him, 'I have had a dream, and no one can explain it. I have been told that you can interpret dreams."

Joseph answered, "I cannot, Your Majesty, but God will give a favorable interpretation." The king said." I dreamed that I was standing on the bank of the Nile, when seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the river and began feeding on the grass. Then seven other cows came up which were thin and bony. They were the poorest cows I have ever seen anywhere in Egypt. The thin cows ate up the fat ones, but no one would have known it, because they looked just as bad as before. Then I woke up. I also dreamed that I saw seven heads of grain which were full and ripe, growing on one stalk. Then seven heads of grain sprouted, thin and scorched by the desert wind, and the thin heads of grain swallowed the full ones. I told the dreams to the magicians, but none of them could explain them to me."

Joseph listened to the Pharaoh’s dream told him exactly what it meant: that there would be seven years of plenty and then seven years of drought and that he should find someone to create a plan to save food in the years of plenty.

The king liked the plan and said to Joseph, "God has shown you all this, so it is obvious that you have greater wisdom and insight than anyone else. I will put you in charge of my country, and all my people will obey your orders. Your authority will be second only to mine. I now appoint you governor over all Egypt."

The king removed from his finger the ring engraved with the royal seal and put it on Joseph's finger. He put a fine linen robe on him, and placed a gold chain around his neck. He gave him the second royal chariot to ride in, and his guard of honor went ahead of him and cried out, "Make way! Make way!"

And so Joseph was appointed governor over all Egypt. The king said to him, "I am the king--and no one in all Egypt shall so much as lift a hand or a foot without your permission." Joseph was thirty years old when he began to serve the king of Egypt. He left the king's court and traveled all over the land. During the seven years of plenty the land produced abundant crops, all of which Joseph collected and stored in the cities.

In each city he stored the food from the fields around it. There was so much grain that Joseph stopped measuring it - it was like the sand of the sea.

The seven years of plenty that the land of Egypt had enjoyed came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every other country, but there was food throughout Egypt.

When the Egyptians began to be hungry, they cried out to the king for food. So he ordered them to go to Joseph and do what he told them. The famine grew worse and spread over the whole country, so Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians. People came to Egypt from all over the world to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why don't you do something? I hear that there is grain in Egypt; go there and buy some to keep us from starving to death."

So Joseph's ten half brothers went to buy grain in Egypt, but Jacob did not send Joseph's full brother Benjamin with them, because he was afraid that something happen to him. The sons of Jacob came with others to buy grain, because there was famine in the land of Canaan.

Joseph, as governor of the land of Egypt, was selling grain to people from all over the world. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he acted as if he did not know them. He asked them harshly, "Where do you come from?" "We have come from Canaan to buy food," they answered.

Joseph’s brothers did not know who he was so he decided to test them to see if they had changed. Some time later

When Joseph saw that were sorry about what they had done he told his brothers who he was. Joseph said to his brothers, " I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But when his brothers heard this, they were so terrified that they could not answer. Then Joseph said to them, " Please come closer." They did, and he said, " I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people's lives. This is only the second year of famine in the land; there will be five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor reaping. God sent me ahead of you to rescue you in this amazing way and to make sure that you and your descendants survive. So it was not really you who sent me here, but God. He has mad me the king's highest official. I am in charge of this whole country; I am the ruler of all Egypt.

"Now hurry back to my father and tell him that this is what his son Joseph says: 'God has made me ruler of all Egypt; come to me without delay. You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me--you, your children, your grandchildren, your sheep, your goats, your cattle, and everything else that you have. If you are in Goshen, I can take care of you. There will still be five years of famine; and I do not want you, your family, and your livestock to starve.'"

When the news reached the palace that Joseph's brothers had come, the king and his officials were pleased. He said to Joseph, " Tell your brothers to load their animals and to return to the land of Canaan. Let them get their father and their families and come back here. I will give them the best land in Egypt, and they will have more than enough to live on. Tell them also to take wagons with them from Egypt for their wives and small children and to bring their father with them. They are not to worry about leaving their possessions behind; the best in the whole land of Egypt will be theirs."

Jacob's sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons, as the king had ordered, and food for the trip.

They left Egypt and went back home to their father Jacob in Canaan. "Joseph is still alive!" they told him. " He is the ruler of all Egypt!" Jacob was stunned and could not believe them.

But when they told him all that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to take him to Egypt, he recovered from the shock. "My son Joseph is still alive! " he said. "This is all I could as for! I must go and see him before I die."

Jacob sent Judah ahead to ask Joseph to meet them in Goshen. When they arrived, Joseph got in his chariot and went to Goshen to meet his father. When they met, Joseph threw his arms around his fathers' neck and cried for a long time.

Then Joseph said to his brothers and the rest of his father's family, " I must go and tell the king that my brothers and all my father's s family, who were living in Canaan, have come to me. I will tell him that you are shepherds and take care of livestock and that you have brought your flocks and herds and everything else that belongs to you. When the king calls for you and asks what your occupation is, be sure to tell him that your have taken care of livestock all your lives, just as your ancestors did. In this way he will let you live in the region of Goshen." Joseph said this because Egyptians will have nothing to do with shepherds.

So Joseph took five of his brothers and went to the king. The king said to Joseph, " Now that your father and your brothers have arrived, the land of Egypt is theirs. Let them settle in the region of Goshen, the best part of the land. And if there are any capable men among them, put them in charge of my own livestock."

Then Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt, giving them property in the best of the land near the city of Rameses, as the king had commanded. Joseph provided food for his father, his brothers, and all the rest of his father's family, including the very youngest.

The Israelites lived in Egypt in the region of Goshen, where they became rich and had many children.

Comic Station #1: The Action Bible – Scan the pages from this visual Bible and paste them on the wall for teens to read/view.

Comic Station #2: The Manga Bible – Scan the pages from Manga Mutiny Bible and paste them on the wall for teens to read/view.

Comic Station #3: The Comic Bible – Download the PDF of this illustrated story of Joseph and paste them on the wall for teens to read/view. There are three parts available from these links:

http://assets.jw.org/assets/m/ijw13fr/502013155/ijw13fr\_id-502013155\_E/502013155\_E\_cnt\_1.pdf

http://assets.jw.org/assets/m/ijw13fr/502013214/ijw13fr\_id-502013214\_E/502013214\_E\_cnt\_1.pdf

http://assets.jw.org/assets/m/ijw13fr/502013288/ijw13fr\_id-502013288\_E/502013288\_E\_cnt\_1.pdf

Video Station #1: God’s Story. Get it on Vimeo at: http://vimeo.com/66760375

Video Station #2: Joseph Rap. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL6F4QcIjSk

Video Station #3: Joseph From Slave to Pharaoh SKETCH. Get it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY8fo2zzNjY

Part 2: Learning from Joseph. Small group time to answer this question: What did you learn from the story of Joseph?

Part 3: Sharing About Joseph. Each group sends a leader to share one insight they learned with the wider group.

Part 4: Lessons from Joseph: Recap the lessons learnt by the teens from the life of Joseph and share a few insights from his story to wrap up the service.

1. Begin With A Dream - God gave Joseph a dream. Way down deep in his heart he knew that Almighty God had a big vision for his life. What dream has the Lord given you? Write it down. Pray over it and most of all use wisdom before you share it with others.

2. Trust God, Not Circumstances - When you find yourself in the pits of life, sometimes the tendency is to turn your back on God and think that He’s forgotten you. This is the time when you should cleave even harder to the Lord. Even when Joseph was sold into slavery the Bible said, “The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered.”

3. Have Integrity - Joseph’s life is a powerful testimony of the long-term effects of walking in integrity. Temptation will always come, but allow God’s Grace to cause you to flee sin and protect you from all of the enemy’s traps.

4. Credit God - Joseph always knew that his gift to interpret dreams came from God. He never took credit and always focused on giving God the glory for all that he did.

5. Manage Success - When God honors us with success and prosperity, we mustn’t forget to first honor Him and honor others. Even though Joseph was sold into slavery by his family that didn’t stop him from blessing them in a time of desperate need.

6. Stay Humble - Throughout his journey Joseph learned to have humility. Although God would one day lift him up, he would first have to lower himself and be humble. How many times in your own life has pride been a stumbling block?

7. Fully Forgive - Set your heart to forgive those around you. This not only will heal your relationship but it will also keep your heart free from bitterness and deep-rooted resentment from the past.

8. Pursue True Prosperity - True prosperity is not in gaining material wealth, it’s in glorifying God through the way you live your life. Joseph continued to cultivate and pursue a relationship with God… this is true prosperity.

Closing Prayer

Next Sunday we will be looking at the Life of Rebekah