

**M5 – TÖRTÉNET SZÖVEGE**

## Joseph's Story

God chose Abraham and promised him that his family will become a great nation. His son was Isaac. Isaac had two sons: Esau and Jacob. Jacob had 11 sons and a daughter. They all lived in Canaan. Joseph, the youngest, was Jacob's favourite son.

Once Jacob gave his son a special gift, a colourful piece of clothes. At that time only kings' children had similar. When his elder brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than anything, they got very jealous. They hated him. They couldn't speak nicely with Joseph. It became even worse when they got to know that God sent special dreams to Joseph.

'We were on the fields. It was harvest. We made bunches. My bunch stood up. And your bunches bowed to mine. And I also dreamt that the Sun, the Moon and 11 stars bowed to me,' Joseph told his brothers about the dream he saw.

'Do you want to be a king and rule over us?' his brothers asked him.

They became even more jealous and angry with him.

One day, Joseph's brothers were on a faraway field with a herd of sheep. Joseph's father asked Joseph to check on his brothers. So Joseph went to find them. By that time his brothers' plan was ready. They decided to kill Joseph.

'Look at him!'

'Here comes the dreamer.'

'Let's just kill him!'

'Let's say that wild beasts ripped him apart!'

Joseph's oldest brother, on the other hand, wanted to save Joseph.

'Let's not kill him. Why don't we just throw him into this well,' he said.

They tore Joseph's colourful clothes off him. They threw him into the well. And they sold him to some people who were on their way to Egypt. Joseph became a slave. But God had a plan with him, so He didn't leave him alone on that foreign land. He got to an important man's house and became a servant. He was hardworking and faithful to God so his work was blessed. Soon he became the important man's assistant, he was in charge of everything that the important man owned.

The important man's wife told lies about Joseph. He got into prison. But God was there with him too. The leader of the prison liked Joseph and made him his helper. One day the Pharaoh's cupbearer and the Pharaoh's baker were sent to prison. Joseph was in charge of them.

These two men saw special dreams. Joseph told them what their dreams meant.

'In my dream there was a grapevine in front of me. I made some drink from that and I gave it to the Pharaoh,' the cupbearer said.

'You will be a free man in three days and you will serve the Pharaoh again,' Joseph said.

The baker wanted to share his dream too. He said, 'I had 3 baskets of cakes on my head. But birds ate all the cakes.'

'The Pharaoh will convict you,' Joseph told him.

Everything happened the way Joseph foresaw.

Two years after the dreams the cupbearer remembered Joseph. The Pharaoh had a special dream and nobody could tell him what it meant. The cupbearer called Joseph from the prison to listen to the Pharaoh's dream.

'I stood at River Nile. 7 nice fat cows came out of the water. Right after them 7 thin and ugly cows came too. The ugly cows ate the nice ones,' the Pharaoh told Joseph.

'I saw 7 nice wheat grew then 7 thin and dry wheat grew too. The dry wheat ate the nice ones,' the Pharaoh went on.

'Pharaoh. Both your dreams mean the same. They mean that 7 good years will come with plenty to harvest. Then 7 bad years will come without anything to harvest at all. There will be no food then. That's God's message,' Joseph said.

Then he suggested to collect food during the 7 good years for the 7 bad years. The Pharaoh put him in charge of this 7 years of work. Joseph built storage buildings to keep wheat there. Joseph got married, he had children.

One day Jacob sent his sons from Canaan to Egypt to buy food. They didn't know that the rich man who they didn't recognise was their long lost brother. They returned to him twice. Finally, Joseph told them who he was. He was not angry with them. He knew God used bad things to teach him good. Jacob, his children and their families moved to Egypt.