

## Finding Joy & Security in Trust Based Relationships

**Parents:** Today we are going to learn about trust. Trust is the firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. We trust people closest to us, but that trust will be broken. Human beings cannot be perfect and we all make relationship mistakes, no matter how much we love each other. Through the story of Joseph, we will see that although human relationships may fail, God can always be trusted.

**Read:** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-36 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. 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. 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 robe for him. 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. Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied. So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave." So his father wept for him. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

**Discuss:** Who was Joseph? *One of Jacob's sons. (also called Israel)*

What did Joseph's father make for him? *An ornate robe*

How did that make Joseph's brothers feel? *They were very jealous of him.* What did they do to Joseph? *They took him, threw him in a cistern or pit and sold him.*

How did God take care of Joseph even when his brothers didn't? *He kept him safe and even placed Joseph in a house of someone who was important in Egypt. God had a plan for Joseph.*

**Key Point: We Praise You God. You Can be Trusted.**

We Praise You God (Hands up in praise)

You Can Be Trusted (Hands out in front)

**Family Activity:** Design a colorful coat with self adhesive felt. What can you trust God with this week? Write it on the back of the coat to remember Proverbs 3:5.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank You for giving us people who love us and who we can trust. It is so nice to have friends, brothers and sisters, moms and dads and other adults that we trust. But people aren't perfect, and sometimes, they let us down. God, we learned today that You never let us down. Help us to trust You with our whole heart. We thank You and we love You. Amen.

**Next Steps:** Memorize Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding".



**We Praise You God. You Can Be Trusted**

We Praise You God	(Hands up in praise)
You Can Be Trusted	(Hands out in front)