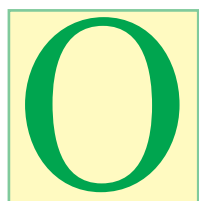




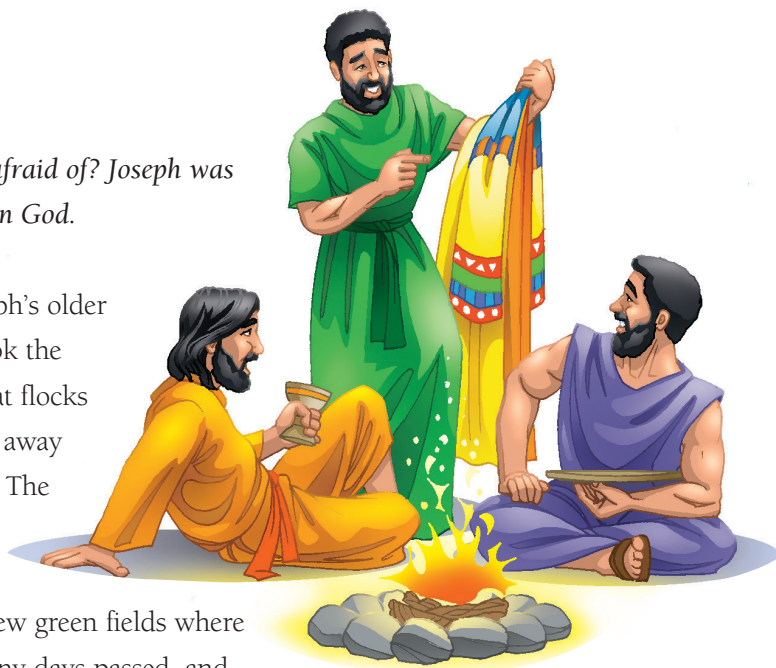
REFERENCES: GENESIS 37:12-28; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 208-212.

# Who Cares?

*Is there anything you are afraid of? Joseph was afraid, but he decided to trust in God.*



One day Joseph's older brothers took the family's great flocks of sheep far away from home. The sheep had stripped the nearby fields, and the brothers had to find new green fields where the sheep could eat. Many, many days passed, and



the brothers had not returned.

**Memory Verse**  
 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

PSALM 56:3, NIV.

## The Message

When we are afraid, we can trust in God.

"I want you to go find your brothers," Jacob said to Joseph. "See if they need anything, then come back and tell me if they are all right."

"Yes, Father, I'll go at once," Joseph said. He packed some food for the long trip. Finally ready, he put on his beautiful coat and started out. He walked and walked. It took several days to find his brothers.

One morning his brothers looked across the fields and saw

Joseph coming toward them. “Here comes that dreamer!” one brother hissed.

“Why is *he* here?” asked another. Then they talked about bad things they could do to Joseph, and they made plans—terrible plans.

“Here you are!” Joseph called, running up to his brothers. But his smile slid right off his face as they grabbed him roughly. First the brothers pulled off Joseph’s beautiful coat. Then they pushed him into a big hole in the ground, a hole so deep he couldn’t climb out!

The brothers returned to their campfire and sat down to eat. But Joseph’s brother Reuben didn’t feel right about what they had done. He secretly planned to pull Joseph out of the deep hole later and send him home. Reuben thought about it as he went to the fields to care for the sheep.

While Reuben was gone, another brother, Judah, looked out across the valley. “Here come some traders!” he exclaimed. “Here’s a way to get rid of that dreamer. Let’s sell Joseph to them. He can be their slave.”

So that is what the brothers did. They sold Joseph to the traders for 20 pieces of silver.



At first Joseph was frightened. He shivered and shook, and he cried. Then he thought of his father and of the many stories his father had told him about how God had always cared for him. Joseph decided to trust God to take care of him, too. He didn’t understand why this bad thing was happening to him, but he trusted God to be with him wherever he went.

You can trust God to be with you too. He will be with you wherever you go, whatever you do. He loves you and wants you to trust Him.

# Do and Say

## SABBATH

Read the lesson story together every day this week and review the memory verse.

- When I** . . . . . Point to self.  
**am afraid,** . . . . . Look scared.  
**I** . . . . . Point to self.  
**put my trust.** . . . . . Wrap arms around self and sway from side to side.  
**in you.** . . . . . Point upward.  
**Psalm 56:3** . . . . . Palms together, then open.

## SUNDAY

Together, find and read Genesis 37:12-28, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: Why were Joseph's brothers jealous? Why was Joseph going to visit them? What two things did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph? How did Joseph feel?

Help your child count how many older brothers Joseph had, then count the children in your family.

## MONDAY

Encourage your child to share the "God's Hands" they made in Sabbath School with someone this week as they tell them about Joseph. Remind your child that God is bigger than they are, so whatever they are afraid of is in His hands.

## TUESDAY

Take your child on a trust walk by blind-folding them and leading them over, under, and around things. Then have your child take you on

a trust walk. Compare notes about how you felt. Remind your child that they can always trust God to lead them.

The next time your child is frightened, pray with them and discuss their memory verse.

## WEDNESDAY

Let your child play in a sandbox while you talk about how much of Egypt is a sandy desert. Make a road in the sand like Joseph would have traveled on to Egypt.



## THURSDAY

Have your child stand on a chair or a tall stool and jump into your arms. (Explain to your child that they should only do this when you are watching and are ready to catch them.) Talk about trust and ask: Can you always trust God to help you?

Ask: Are there any people you shouldn't trust? Talk about personal safety issues with strangers.

## FRIDAY

Help your child act out the Bible story with your family. Joseph can wear a colorful robe or shirt.

Talk about fear. Are there times when children should be afraid? When? Why? Sing about trusting God. Thank God for always being with us.

