

DAY EIGHT - JOSEPH

To do today: Color ornament #8, read the following story and choose which activities you would like to do.

Joseph, the Dreamer

Jacob had twelve sons. Two of these, Joseph and Benjamin, were the children of Rachel. Jacob loved all his children, but he loved Joseph the best of all. When the boy was about sixteen years old, his father gave him a coat of many colors. His brothers were jealous of him and hated him because they knew that their father loved him better than the rest. One day Joseph told them that he had a strange dream. "I dreamed," he said, "that we were binding sheaves in the field: and my sheaf arose and stood, and your sheaves, standing around, bowed before mine." His brothers asked: "Shall you be our king? Or shall we be your subjects?" And they hated him the more for his words. Another time Joseph dreamed that the sun and the moon and eleven stars worshiped him. When he told his father and his brothers about it. Jacob asked: "Shall I and your mother and your brothers worship you upon the earth?" His brothers became more angry than ever, but his father wondered about the dream. One day when Joseph's older brothers were out with the sheep, his father said to him: "Your brothers are feeding the sheep in Sichem. I will send you to them." Joseph answered: "I am ready." "Go," said his father, "and see if all is well with your brothers, and bring me word about them." When Joseph's brothers saw him coming from afar, they said: "Behold, there comes the dreamer. Come, let us kill him and throw him into an old pit. We shall tell our father that a wild beast devoured him. Then we shall see what good his dreams will do him." But Reuben, the eldest of the brothers, wished to save him and said: "Do not take his life or shed his blood. Let us throw him into this pit." He said this, however, that he might come back afterwards and return the boy to his father. When Joseph arrived, they tore off his coat of many colors and threw him into the pit. Afterwards, while they were sitting down to eat they saw some merchants coming along the road on their way to Egypt. There Juda, one of the brothers, said. "What good will it do us to kill Joseph? He is our brother. Let us sell him to the merchants instead." And they took him out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. Then they took his coat, dipped it into the blood of a kid which they had killed, and sent the garment home to Jacob, saying: "We have found this coat. See whether it is your son's or not." The father, seeing the coat, cried aloud: "It is my son's coat. A wild beast has eaten him, a beast has devoured him." And tearing his garments, he mourned for his son a long time and would not be comforted."

Now answer the following questions:

1.) How many sons had Jacob?

2.) Who was Jacob's favorite son?

3.) Why did the brothers hate Joseph?

4.) What did Joseph answer when his father sent him into the field?

5.) What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

6.) Did they all want to kill him?

7.) For how much did they sell him?

8.) What did the father think happened to Joseph?

Joseph was an obedient boy. When his father sent him to his brothers, he answered at once: "I am ready." That is the kind of obedience that God expects of children toward their parents.

Pick out the sentences you would like to remember and copy them in your character book:

Although Jesus was God, he was obedient to Mary and Joseph.

I must obey my father and mother because they take the place of God.

I must obey cheerfully.

I must obey promptly.

God promised to reward those children who honor and obey their parents.

Father and Mother are my best friends. I will always obey them.

Jesus, make me an obedient child.

Can you answer these questions?

1.) Were the dreams that Joseph and the other holy men had the same as our dreams?

2.) Do the dreams we have mean anything?

3.) Should we believe in dreams? Fortune-tellers?

4.) Why must we obey our parents?

5.) Whom else must we obey?

Here are some good poems for you to remember:

My blessed task from day to day Is nobly, gladly to obey. - Harriet Kimbal

All obedience worth the name Must be prompt and ready. -Phoebe Cary

If a task is once begun,
Never leave it till it's done;
Be the labor great or small,
Do it well or not at all.

- Phoebe Cary

Sold as a Slave

The merchants who bought Joseph took him into the land of Egypt where they sold him to Putiphar, a captain in the King's army. The Lord was with Joseph and blessed him in everything he did. Putiphar soon came to like Joseph and gave him charge of his whole household. But the wife of Putiphar was a wicked woman who tried often to lead Joseph into sin.

One day when Joseph was alone, this wicked woman took hold of him and tried again to tempt him to sin. Joseph ran away, leaving his coat in her hands. But she became very angry, and going to her husband with the coat, said: "The servant whom you have brought came to me and tried to lead me into sin; when I cried for help, he left his garment in my hands and fled."

Putiphar believed his wife's words and had Joseph thrown into prison. But even in prison Joseph did not lose his trust in God. The Lord was with him as He had always been. The chief keeper treated him very kindly and gave him charge of all the prisoners.

Now answer the following questions:

1.) To whom did the merchant sell Joseph?

2.) Who tempted Joseph to sin?

3.) What did Joseph do when he was tempted?

4.) What did Putiphar's wife tell her husband about Joseph?

5.) How did Putiphar treat Joseph?

6.) How did the prison keeper treat Joseph?

Here are some sentences for you to think about. Try to remember those that will help you most to remain good. Write those that you want to remember into your character book:

I must be clean in thought.

I must never tell anything that is not good.

I must never allow myself to use bad language.

I must never listen to evil talk.

I must use my hands to do only good acts.

I must go with children who think clean thoughts and use clean language.

I must never allow myself to look at evil pictures or objects.

I must never be idle, but keep busy playing, reading, or working, because an idle brain is the devil's workshop.

When other's tempt me to do wrong, I must have the courage to say "No!"

God knows and sees everything. Jesus loves pure hearts. Mary is the Mother of Purity.

More things for you to do:

1.) Three saints are always pictured with a lily; they are St. Joseph, St. Anthony, and St. Aloysius. Can you tell why they hold a lily? Look for a picture of these saints.

2.) Learn one or more of the following quotations:

Beautiful faces are those that show, Beautiful thoughts that lie below.

It is better to be alone than in bad company. - George Washington

My strength is as the strength of ten, Because my heart is pure. -Tennyson.

3.) Draw or cut out a lily and write under the words of the Lord: "Blessed are the clean of heart."

4.) Read in the Lives of the Saints one of the following and tell the story to the class or family: St. Joseph, St. Agnes, St. Aloysius, St. Dorothy, St. Casimir, St. Rose of Lima, St. John Berchmans, The Little Flower

5.) On a Catholic calendar find the different feasts of the Blessed Virgin, and write the name of the feast and the date on which it is celebrated.

6.) Learn the little prayer to be said in time of temptation: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Good things for you to read:

"No," American Cardinal Reader, Book IV, page 134.

"Immaculate," Rosary Reader, Book IV, page 147.

"St. Agnes," Misericordia Reader, Book IV, page 10.

"St. Rose of Lima," Cathedral Basic Reader, Book IV, page 40.



Day 8 - Joseph