

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Memory Work:**

“The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.”  
Genesis 39:2

**Aim Questions:**

1. Why did Joseph’s brothers hate him?
2. What did they want to do to him? What did they do instead?
3. To whom was Joseph sold?
4. Who was with Joseph through all his trouble?
5. What did Joseph do when he was tempted?
6. How can you know that God is with you?
7. What should you do when tempted to do something wrong?

**Hook:**



**What is Character? (Discussion).** Look up the word “character” in a dictionary. Discuss what it means to have good character. What kind of person is someone who has godly character? Look up the word “integrity.” How do these two words relate to each other? Is one part of the other? Can you have one without the other? Have one of the students write down the ideas as the other students list them. Keep this list handy to be used as you review Joseph’s character during the TOOK time.




**Who Do You Admire, and Why? (Discussion).** Talk about those people you admire most in your life. Who do the children admire most in their lives? What is it about these people that we admire? Try to direct the kids to combine those character traits into one list, which sets up a model for someone who everyone would admire. In order to help the students understand which traits are important to God (not man), the teachers may need to gently guide, suggest, or redirect some of the traits given. Your final list will hopefully include some of the godly character traits of Joseph which can then be reviewed at the end of class.




**Brainstorm Brothers (Game).** Have teaching groups compete to see which one can remember and write the names of Jacob’s twelve sons. The first group to produce a complete list wins. (If no group can remember them all, then call time, and see who remembered the most.)



**Very Bad Day (Read Aloud Story).** Bring a copy of Alexander’s Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. Read about this terrible, horrible day in the life of a little boy. Have you ever had a bad day? Have you ever had a bad year? Today we will hear about a young man who had a bad time for several years. We will learn about Who was with him and how he handled the situation.

 **Bad to Worse (Activity).** Work as a class to make up a story of the worst day ever. Let students raise their hands when they have ideas and add to the story when called on. It might begin something like this: *I was sleeping soundly when I heard my Mom yell frantically, "Get up! Get up quick! My alarm clock didn't go off, and we have to leave in 10 minutes!" In an instant I was wide awake. I swung my feet around and put them on the floor. That's when I felt something squishy between my toes...."* It might be fun to give the class copies of their complete story next week.






 **That's Not Fair! (Discussion).** Discuss and make a list with the kids of those times when they have been treated unfairly. How did they react, and what did they do? How often we complain when things don't go just right for us. Society tells us that we have *rights* and that we should **FIGHT FOR THOSE RIGHTS!** If we are treated unfairly or suffer unjustly, we can get a lawyer and take legal action, retaliate, and recover our loss. Is God aware of our misfortunes? Today's Bible Adventure tells of a man who, although obedient, went through great times of suffering. His obedience brought about unjust treatment worse than most of us will ever encounter. Where was God, and what was He doing all the while this man was suffering? You will learn how this man responded and see how God was blessing him during these times of trial.

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### Book:

#### Presentation Ideas -

-  **Joseph's Dream, Part I (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 37:5-8, **1GEN12.GF1.**
-  **Joseph's Dream, Part II (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 37:9-10, **1GEN12.GF2.**
-  **Joseph in the Pit (Illustration/Overhead).** Genesis 37:23-26, **1GEN12.GF3.**
-  **It's Just Not Fair! (Skit).** It might help to get the kids' attention by doing a short skit before the Bible Adventure is presented, which highlights typical ways in which a child might experience unjust treatment or suffering. You may want to solicit acting assistance from some of the high school students.
-  **A Dastardly Deed (Drama).** Have some young men act out the story of Joseph and his brothers (chapter 37). They will need a multicolored robe or coat and a designated spot for the "pit."

#### Bible Adventure -

A lot of you have heard the verse, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31 NIV). It's a fine verse, and its meaning is clear, yet how many of us live our lives as if we really believe it? Let trouble come, and we react with fear, with anger, or we spend all our energy trying to fix the problem ourselves. We see in the Bible that God wants us to live a life of faith, a life of believing that He is big enough to handle ANYTHING that He allows to come into our lives.

Today we want to look at the life of Jacob and Rachel's son, Joseph. God put the story of Joseph in His Word because it is an example to us. Joseph *lived* his belief that whatever happened in his life, God was bigger; so Joseph trusted Him.

Joseph was now seventeen years old and was the favorite son of his father, Jacob. Jacob had a special, fancy robe made for Joseph. Joseph's brothers hated him and wouldn't even speak a kind word to him because he was Jacob's favorite. Then Joseph told his brothers about a dream he had in which the sheaf of grain he was tying stood up tall and all his brothers' sheaves bowed down to it. The brothers hated him all the more because the dream meant that Joseph thought he would rule over them. Later Joseph told his brothers and Jacob, "Listen, I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." Jacob wondered what it could mean, but the brothers were very jealous of Joseph.

One day Jacob decided to send Joseph to check on his brothers who were far away tending their father's

flocks. Joseph found them at Dotham; but while he was still some distance from them, his brothers saw him and began to say to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns (a large tank for holding water) and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." Because of their jealousy, there was no talk of right or wrong or thought of the grief this would cause their father. There was just a powerful wish to get rid of their competition. Then Reuben said, "Let's not take his life. Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben hoped they would take his advice so he could return later, free Joseph, and take him back to their father.

When Joseph arrived, they grabbed him, took his fancy robe from him and put him into the empty cistern. Soon they saw a caravan of Ishmaelite merchants on their way to Egypt to trade goods. Judah suggested they sell their brother to the Ishmaelites as they would gain nothing by killing him. The others were quick to agree and soon the brothers were 20 shekels richer, while Joseph was on his way to Egypt as a slave.

Reuben, who was gone when all this took place, returned to the cistern and was upset to not find Joseph inside. The brothers took Joseph's robe and dipped it in goat's blood. Then they took this back to Jacob, who thought that a wild animal had attacked his son and torn him to pieces. Jacob was so upset that he tore his clothes and talked about dying, so he could be with his son. What incredible pain resulted from this horrible lie.

Far away in Egypt, Joseph was sold to the captain of Pharaoh's royal guard, Potiphar. Here he was in a strange country, torn away from his family and his home. It would have been natural for Joseph to be bitter and angry, but he knew that God was with him even in this situation, and every day he looked for ways to please God. God blessed the Egyptian because it was Joseph who was caring for his possessions. Potiphar noticed, and soon he had given the care of his whole household to Joseph.

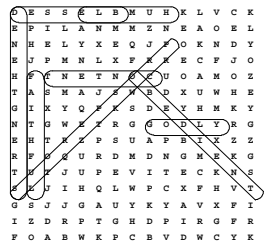
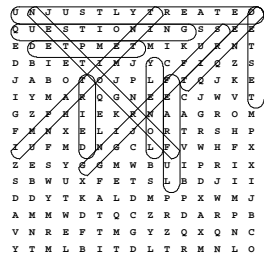
Trouble began brewing when Potiphar's wife noticed how handsome Joseph was and began chasing him day after day. Joseph told her that he would not betray Potiphar's trust, nor would he sin against God by becoming involved with her. Joseph finally even refused to be around her, but Potiphar's wife had a one-track mind. One day she grabbed Joseph by the cloak when no one was around and tried to force him to be with her. Joseph slipped out of the cloak, leaving it in her hands, and ran from the house. Did you notice the *integrity* this young man had? [Teachers, please give an age-appropriate definition of this word.] He refused to become tangled up in sin with Potiphar's wife, not once, but many times. When she pressed him, he *ran*. This angered Potiphar's wife who started screaming that Joseph had come to her and tried to take advantage of her! Potiphar believed his wife and threw Joseph into prison. What next for Joseph? He'd been betrayed by his own brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused and thrown into prison. Many of us would have given up at that point and assumed that God didn't care. But Genesis 39:20,21 tells us that "while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him. He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden." Soon Joseph was caring for everything in the prison.

Isn't that remarkable? How was Joseph able to carry on in spite of all those tough times? Was he some kind of superman? We know that Joseph was just as human as we are. Later in Genesis we learn that he pleaded with his brothers for his life when he was inside that cistern. He must have been frightened when he was thrown into prison. Even in those awful circumstances, Joseph saw the hand of his God working in his life. That was the lifeline Joseph held tightly to when his life was crumbling to pieces around him.

Did you know that you can grab on to that same lifeline? The prophet Isaiah told of a Messiah that God would send, who would be called Immanuel, "God with us." For those who follow Him in faith, He is the one who will never leave us nor forsake us. That's where our confidence comes from; it's the reality of having God with us all the time. When you're faced with a hard situation, don't let yourself be distracted by the circumstances. Remind yourself that God is with you. Keeping your focus on Him can shed light on the darkest of troubles.



- Depending On God (Word Search).** How do you think Joseph felt during these times of incredible suffering? As we continue in our study of Joseph in the next couple of weeks, we will see that as God brought him through these times, his feelings probably changed. Have students see if they can find these contrasting words which describe his feelings on the two word search puzzles provided, **1GEN12.GF4.** **Answer Key #1:** **Answer Key #2:**



- Match 'Em Up! (Worksheet).** We saw in today's Bible Adventure, that sometimes obedience to God can lead us down a path of suffering. As Joseph obeyed, God allowed trials to come into his life which God used to strengthen Joseph's character and bring about total dependence upon Him. Follow the instructions on **1GEN12.GF5** to match up the act of obedience with the suffering.

- Joseph Has Something I Want! (Worksheet).** Use **1GEN12.GF6** to reinforce the events from the Bible Adventure, and discover the key character quality which we see in Joseph.

- 2-D Character Building Blocks (Craft).** 🦋 This will be better suited for the younger children or for a shortened time allotment for the completion of this craft. The book of Proverbs gives us great bits of guidance as to how God wants to build His character qualities into each of us. Use these Scripture passages to discuss these specific qualities as you assemble this craft. Which qualities do we see represented in today's Bible Adventure about Joseph? Using **1GEN12.GF7**, have students color and cut out the character quality squares and paste them down in the shaded squares provided below in the title block. If desired, cut out the title sheet and paste this down on a 1/2 sheet of construction paper for a more finished look.

- 3-D Character Building Blocks (Craft).** 🦋 This craft is better suited for the older children, or for those classrooms allowing a long enough time to complete this craft (approx. 30 minutes). The book of Proverbs gives us great bits of guidance as to how God wants to build His character qualities into each of us. Use these Scripture passages to discuss these specific qualities as you assemble this craft. Which qualities do we see represented in today's Bible Adventure about Joseph? Have students color, cut and fold into six cubes those diagramed on **GEN12.GF8 Pgs. 1&2**. Once the cubes have been formed and glued or taped together using the tabs provided, assemble these six cubes into a 3-D pyramid. Start with three cubes on the bottom, then add the two on top of those, and the top cube will be placed on top of those two. Tape or a small dab of glue will be needed to secure these blocks from tumbling down. Encourage your students to review the book of Proverbs this week as they pray for godly character.

- The LORD Was With Joseph When... (Worksheet).** Number these events from Joseph's life in the order they occurred, **1GEN12.GF9.** (Answers: 10, 3, 5, 1, 7, 11, 2, 6, 9, 4, 8.)

- Joseph's Dreams (Cut and Paste).** In Joseph's dreams, who did the sheaves of grain and the stars represent? From the list on **1GEN12.GF10 Pg. 1**, copy a name by each bundle of grain on **1GEN12.GF10 Pg. 2**. Then cut out the star faces and glue them in the sky above Joseph.



**“Fashion” a Coat (Craft).** **Materials needed:** One large paper grocery bag for each student, scissors, glue, markers (optional), sequins, jewels, yarn, etc.

**Instructions:** Open the bag, and turn it upside down. The bottom is now the top. Starting at the open bottom, cut up the middle of one (large) side of the bag along the glued overlap. Continue cutting through the upper fold into the top of the bag and then cut out a large circle (about 6” diam.) in the center of the top to form a neck-hole. Then cut large circles in the small sides of the bag (at the top) to form armholes. Turn the bag inside out. Do this carefully so the “coat” won’t tear. It works best to “poke” the corners in first and then just continue reversing the folds. Glue a label from **1GEN12.GF11** into the back at the neck-hole where you would find the label in a coat. Now decorate!

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### **Took:**



**ABC Button Banner (Craft).** Have students make a button banner on which to pin their ABC Buttons for the book of Genesis. A take-home kit will be provided for each child when he or she earns the first button. Kits include banner felt, dowel, cording and instructions with suggestions for individual decoration. These are available upon request.



**ABC Buttons (Memory Work).** Give students the Genesis ABC stats on **1GEN01.GF11** and **1GEN07.GF8** in order to earn their buttons. Buttons are awarded to those successfully memorizing the significant action, Bible verse and character statistics for each lesson throughout the book of Genesis. The ABC’s for Genesis 37-39 are:

- A. Sold Into Slavery**
- B. Genesis 39:2**
- C. Joseph and His Brothers**




**Review From the Cistern (Review).** Give the kids the opportunity to fish review questions out from a cistern. You’ll have to use your own creativity to come up with your version of what that cistern looks like. You may want to have an actual picture of a cistern available to show the kids.




**Using Joseph as a Role Model (Craft).** Trace a child’s outline on a piece of butcher paper, and mount that to the wall. Cut out strips of colored paper which are taped together, or use strips of colored butcher paper if available. You will need to make these strips up before class, and then they can be custom trimmed to fit the child’s outline done during class. Review the godly character traits we saw in Joseph, based on what we learned in our Bible Adventure this morning. You may also pull in some of the character traits of those most admired by the children (see HOOK time activity). Have the children write these traits on the colored strips of paper and then tape them on the child’s outline. Trim the colored strips so that they resemble the multi-colored tunic which Jacob gave Joseph. This illustration can then remain up on the wall for the next several weeks as we learn more about Joseph.

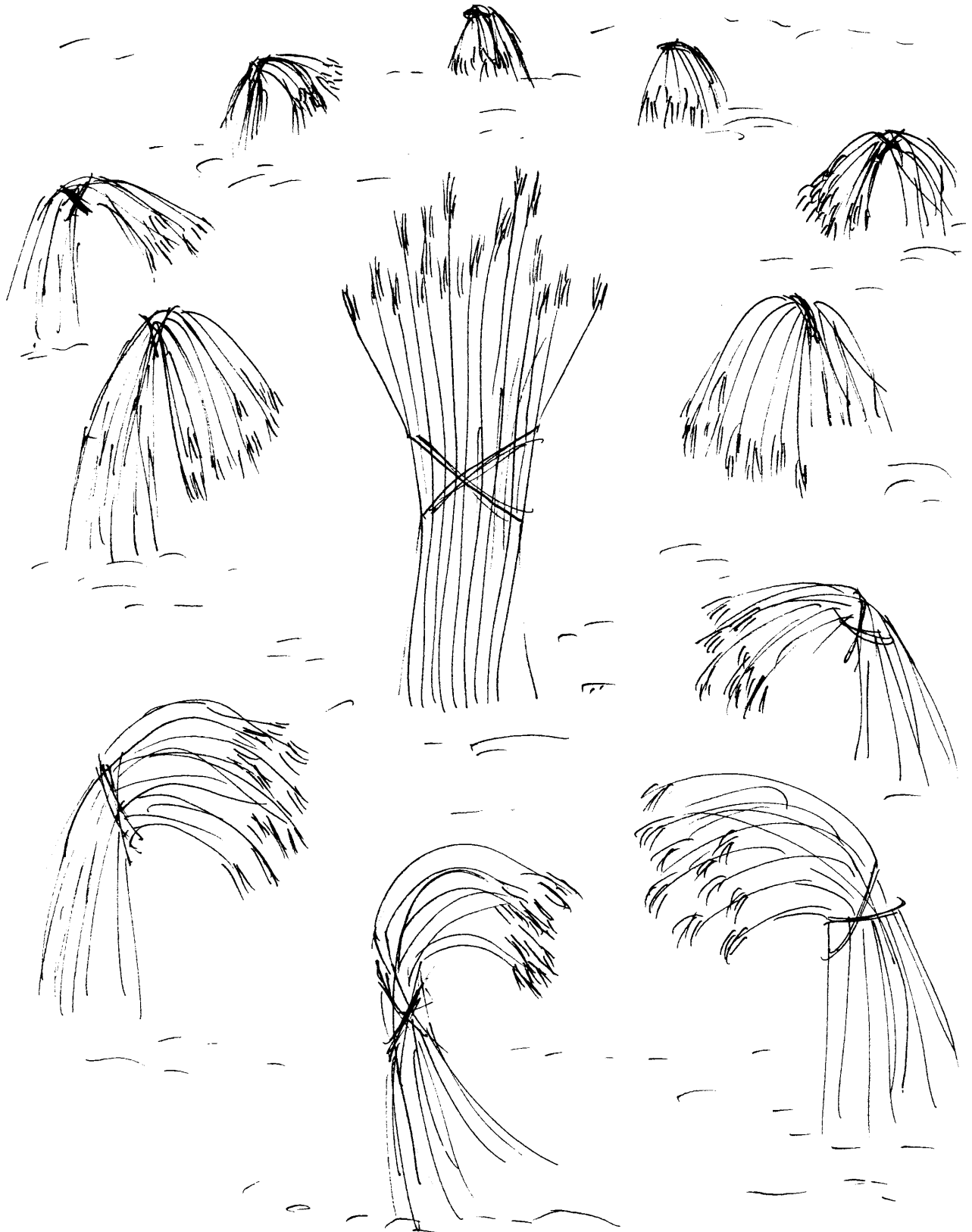


**The LORD is With Me When... (Game).** Think of some tough situations where you have felt alone or afraid. Share some of these. Then play a circle memory game. (Divide students if the group is more than about 20. Include teachers.) The first player will say something like, “The LORD is with me when my parents are late to pick me up.” The second player would then say, “The LORD is with me when my parents are late to pick me up and when I’m sick.” The third player would say, “The LORD is with me when my parents are late to pick me up and when I’m sick and when I’m in the dark.” The fourth would say, “The LORD is with me when my parents are late to pick me up and when I’m sick and when I’m in the dark and when I have to take a test.” Play continues around the circle. Let the first player see if he can recite the whole thing. God really IS with us in all these situations. This is not a competitive game. Allow students to help each other remember.

 **An Example to Follow (*Worksheet*).** From these excerpts out of today's passage, draw a line to the character quality they show. Beside some of these qualities, tell a situation in your own life (maybe similar to Joseph's) where you might have a chance to follow Joseph's example, **1GEN12.GF12.**

 **God's Lifeline (*Story*).** Read students this account of an exploration gone bad. **DEBRIEF:** What had saved Jeff's life? What is the significance of the name "Lifeline"? How can God be our lifeline when we find ourselves lost? Will we forget that He is our true lifeline? Will we try other ways out of a difficult situation or will we depend on Him first? **1GEN12.GF13.**

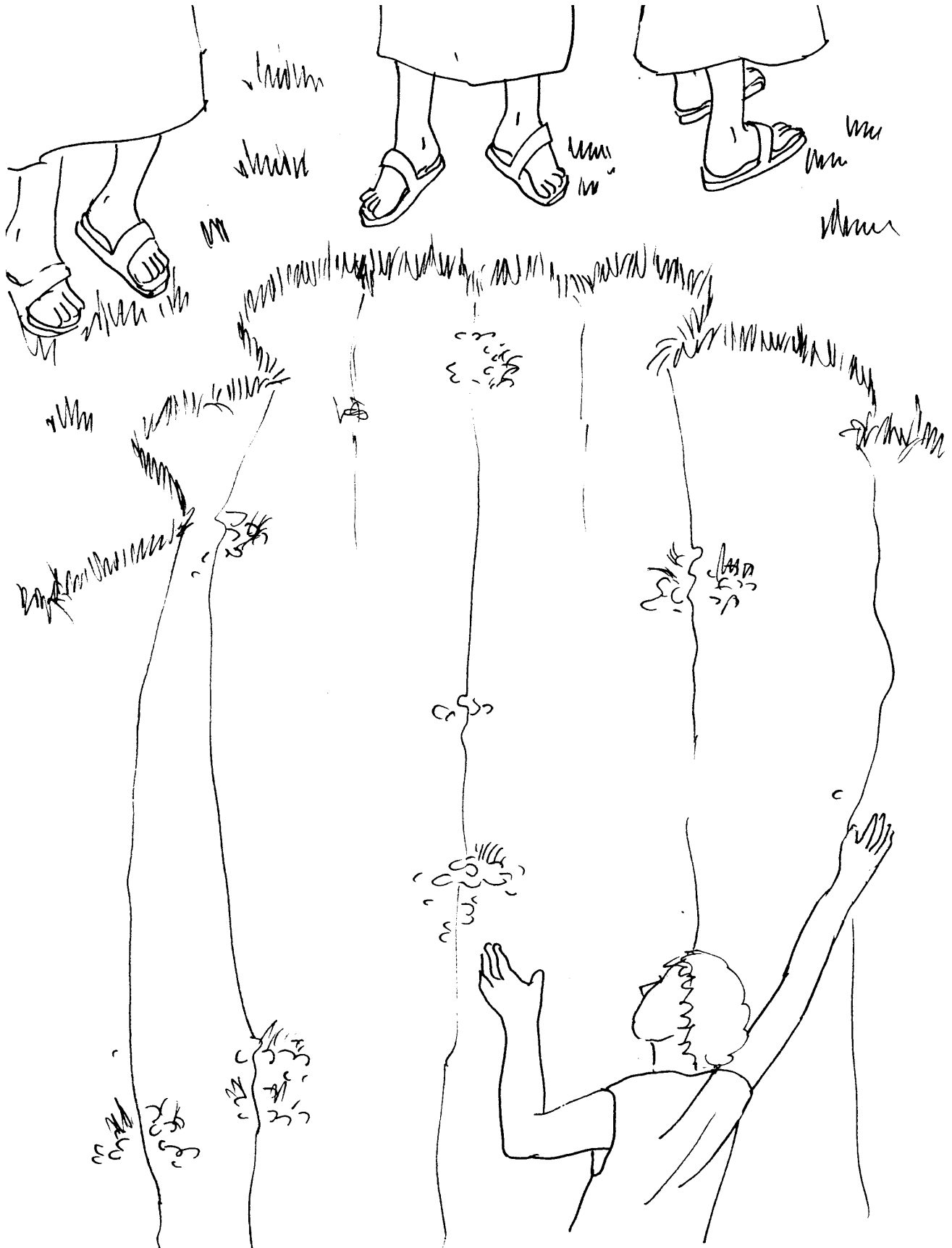
# Joseph's Dream, Part I



# Joseph's Dream, Part II



# Joseph in the Pit



# Depending on God

How do you think Joseph felt during these times of incredible suffering? As we continue in our study of Joseph in the next couple of weeks, we will see that as God brought him through these times, his feelings probably changed.

See if you can find the contrasting words in the word searches below which describe Joseph's feelings.

## Joseph Depended on God During Difficult Times

U N J U S T L Y T R E A T E D  
 Q U E S T I O N I N G S S E E  
 E D E T P M E T M I K U R N T  
 D B I E T I M J Y C F I Q Z S  
 J A B O T O J P L F T Q J K E  
 I Y M A R Q G N E E C J W V T  
 G Z P H I E K R N A A G R O M  
 F M N X E L I J O R T R S H P  
 I U F M D N G C L F V W H F X  
 Z E S Y G G M W B U I P R I X  
 S B W U X F E T S L B D J I I  
 D D Y T K A L D M P P X W M J  
 A M M W D T Q C Z R D A R P B  
 V N R E F T M G Y Z Q X Q N C  
 Y T M L B I T D L T R M N L O

### How Joseph might have felt:

- suffering
- unjustly treated
- tempted
- lonely
- tested
- tried
- tired
- fearful
- forgotten
- questioning
- impatient

## The Outcome of Joseph's Endurance Through Those Difficult Times

D E S S E L B M U H K L V C K  
 E P I L A N M M Z N E A O E L  
 N H E L Y X E Q J P O K N D Y  
 E J P M N L X F R R E C F J O  
 H F T N E T N O C U O A M O Z  
 T A S M A J S W B D X U W H E  
 G I X Y Q P K S D E Y H M K Y  
 N T G W E T R G G O D L Y R G  
 E H T R Z P S U A P B I X Z Z  
 R F O Q U R D M D N G M E K G  
 T U T J U P E V I T E C K N S  
 S L J I H Q L W P C X F H V T  
 G S J J G A U Y K Y A V X F I  
 I Z D R P T G H D P I R G F R  
 F O A B W K P C B V D W C Y K

### How Joseph might have felt:

- blessed
- prosperous
- strengthened
- faithful
- content
- godly
- obedient
- humble

# MATCH 'EM UP!

As we learned about Joseph in our Bible Adventure today, we saw how obedience can lead to sufferings. Sometimes when we obey God, He allows suffering in order to strengthen our faith and develop godly character.

Draw a line between, and match up the “act of obedience” to the “suffering” which followed. Be careful, some of the acts of obedience may have caused multiple sorrows.

## Acts of Obedience

**Genesis 37:2** Joseph honors his father and brings back a bad report on his brothers.

**Genesis 37:13-14** At the request of his father, Joseph goes to search for his brothers to check on their welfare.

**Genesis 39:2-6** Joseph obeys his master Potiphar and brings blessing to all he serves.

**Genesis 39:12** Joseph flees the temptation of sin with Potiphar’s wife.

## Sufferings

Joseph is put into prison.

Joseph was hated by his brothers.

Joseph was unjustly accused.

Joseph was sold into slavery.

Joseph was thrown down into a cistern.

# Joseph Has Something I Want! What is it?

Joseph had something special that God wants all of us to have, too. Answer the questions below about today's Bible Adventure, and fill in the letters appearing in the circles, keeping them in order, into the large boxes provided at the top. After you have discovered what this special something is, see if you can describe it to your teacher.

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1. Another name for Joseph's father was  \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 37:3
2. How old was Joseph when he was pasturing his father's flocks?  
\_\_\_\_\_  . Genesis 37:2
3. Joseph's brothers \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ him. Genesis 37:4-5
4. Joseph told his brothers about his \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 37:6
5. Jacob asked Joseph to  \_\_\_\_\_ and see how his brothers were doing in Schechem. Genesis 37:13-14
6. Joseph's brother  \_\_\_\_\_ tried to save Joseph from being killed by the other brothers. Genesis 37:21
7. Sold into slavery, Joseph served \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_, who was the head bodyguard to the Pharaoh. Genesis 39:1
8. The Lord was \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph during all his trials. Genesis 39:2,3,21,23
9. God blessed Joseph through his trials. Joseph, even though he began as a slave, eventually became a very important official in \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_. Genesis 39:1

# 2-D Character Building Blocks

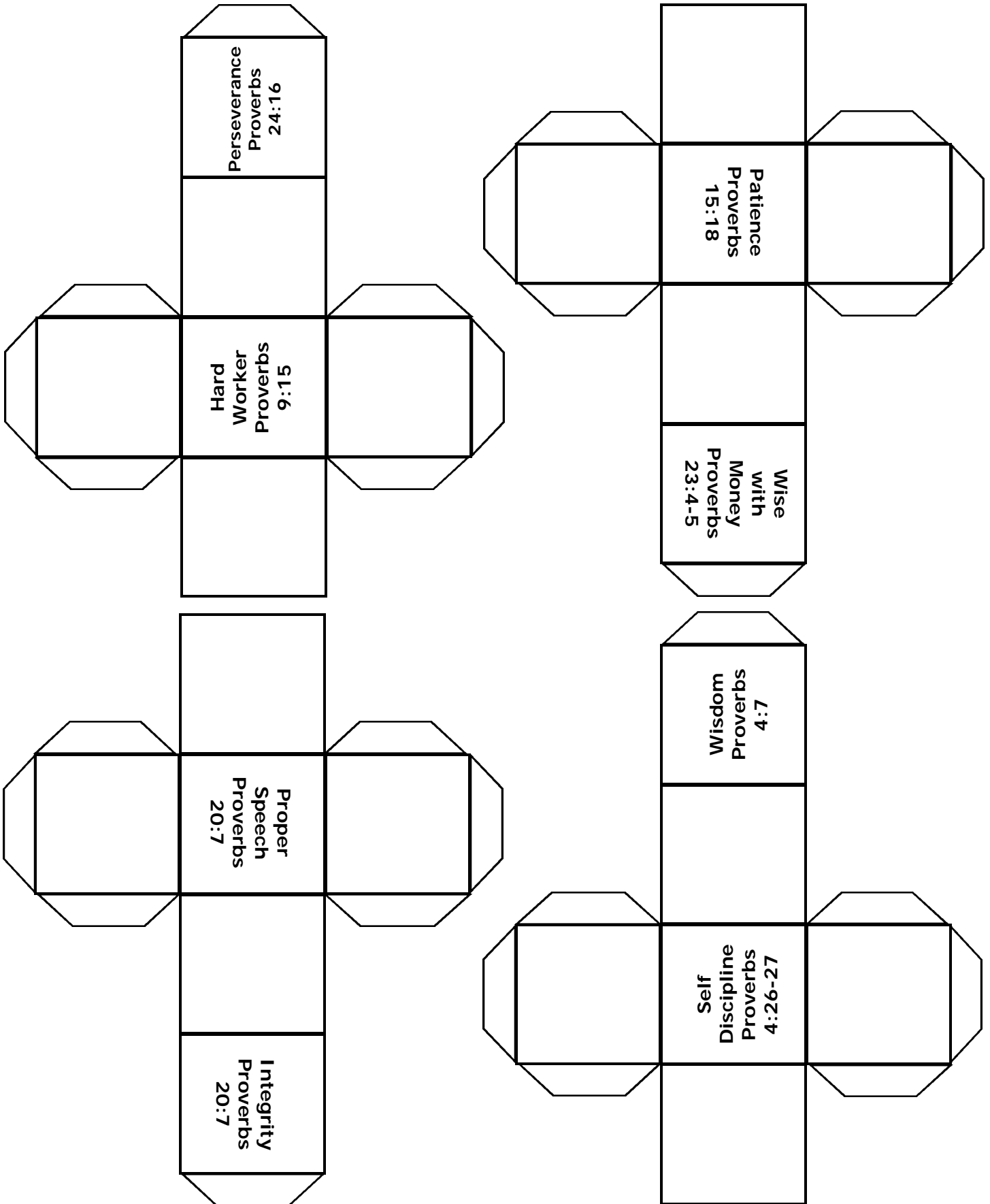
Cut out the boxes below which list godly character qualities. Paste them in the dotted squares below in a pyramid shape. Squares and title sheet can be colored if desired. The title sheet can then be mounted on a piece of construction paper for completion.

<b>Humility</b> Proverbs 18:12	<b>Fear the Lord</b> Proverbs 9:10	<b>Trust God for All Things</b> Proverbs 3:5-6	<b>Having Compassion for Others</b> Proverbs 3:27	<b>Wise with Money</b> Proverbs 23:4-5	<b>Patience</b> Proverbs 15:18
<b>Wisdom</b> Proverbs 4:7	<b>Self Discipline</b> Proverbs 4:26-27	<b>Hard Worker</b> Proverbs 9:15	<b>Perseverance</b> Proverbs 24:16	<b>Proper Speech</b> Proverbs 20:7	<b>Integrity</b> Proverbs 20:7

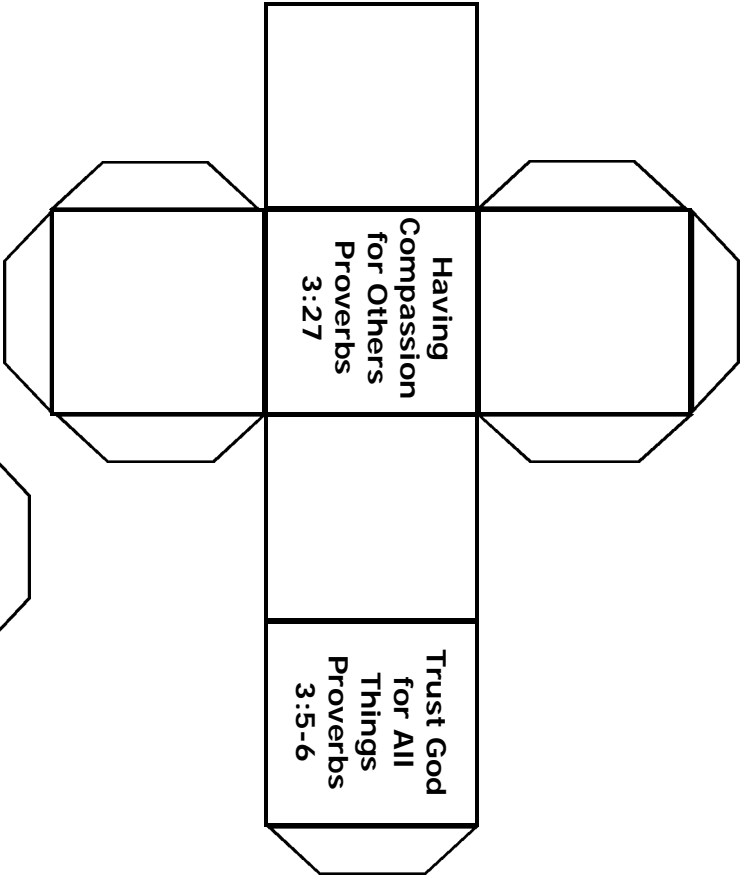
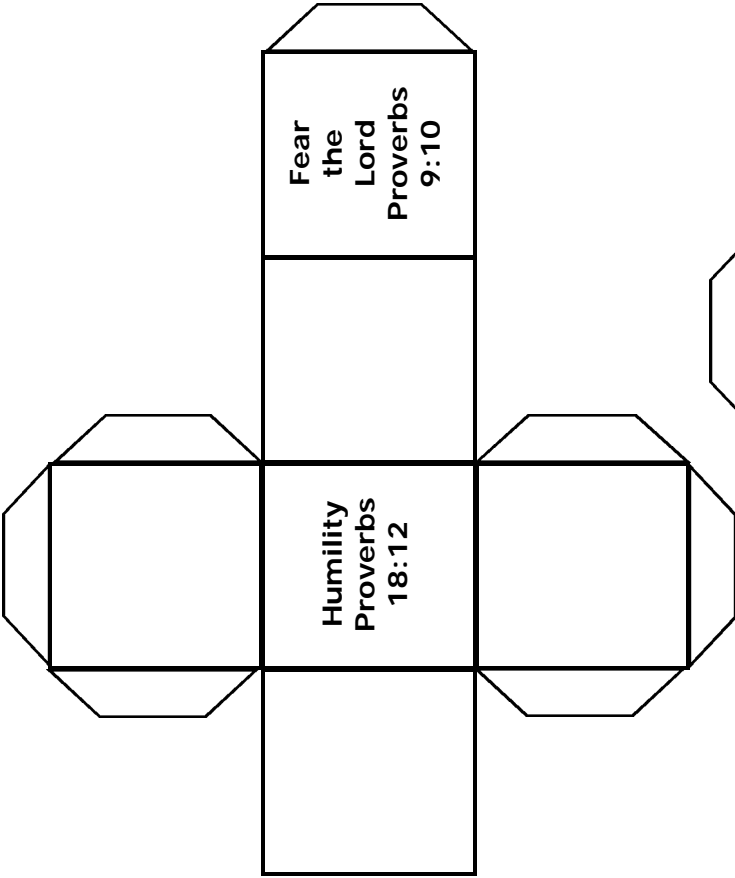
**God Builds Our Character Through Trials**

# 3-D Character Building Blocks

Color, cut out, and fold into 3-D cubes. Use tape or a glue stick to fasten tabs. Build into a pyramid shape with blocks on the title sheet shown on **1GEN12.GF8 Pg. 2**. Paste or use tape to stick the assembled cubes to each other.



# 3-D Character Building Blocks

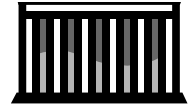


**God  
Builds Our Character  
Through Trials**

# The LORD Was With Joseph When...

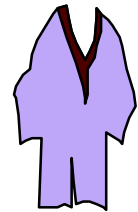
Number these events from Joseph's life in the order they occurred.  
The first one is done for you.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he was accused  
and put in prison.



\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he went to  
Shechem to check on his brothers and found out they  
were in Dothan.

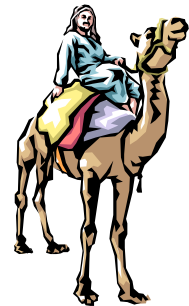
\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when his brothers put  
him in a pit.



1

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he was given a  
fancy robe.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he was taken to  
Egypt and sold to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's  
guard.



\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he was put in  
charge of the prison.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he told his family  
of his two dreams.



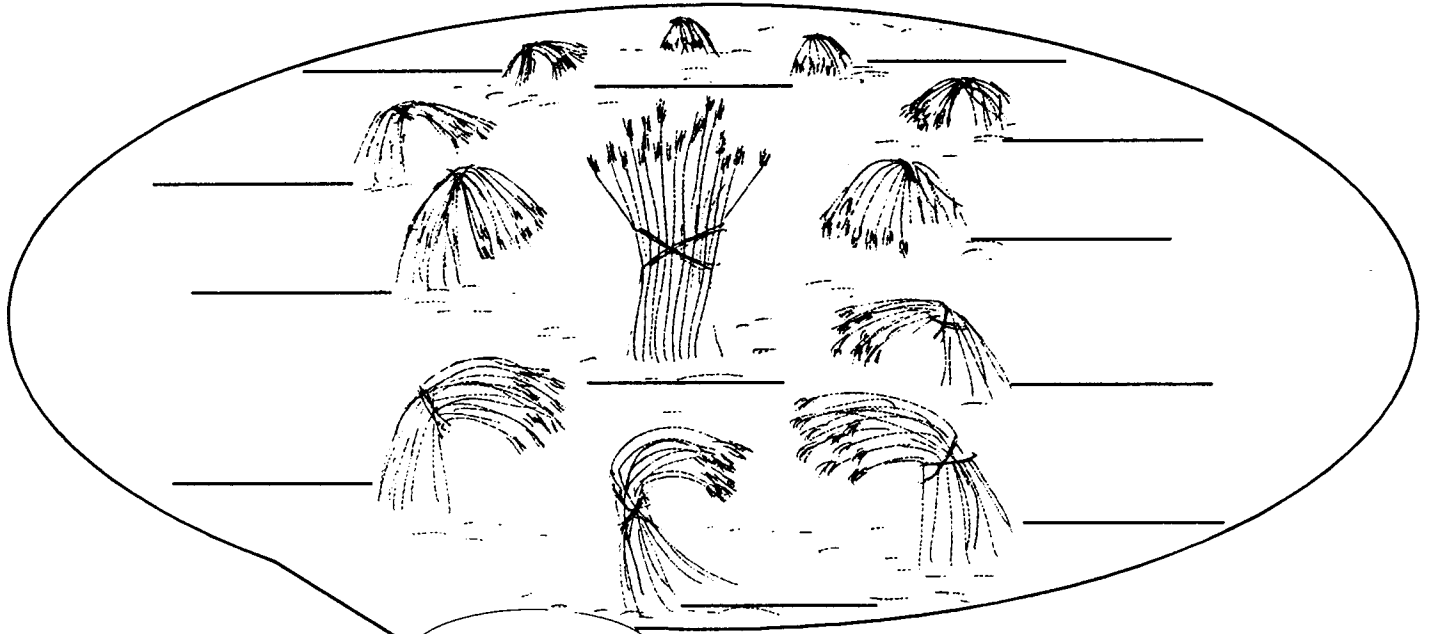
\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he was taken out of  
the pit and sold to slave traders.

\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when he ran away from  
Potiphar's wife.



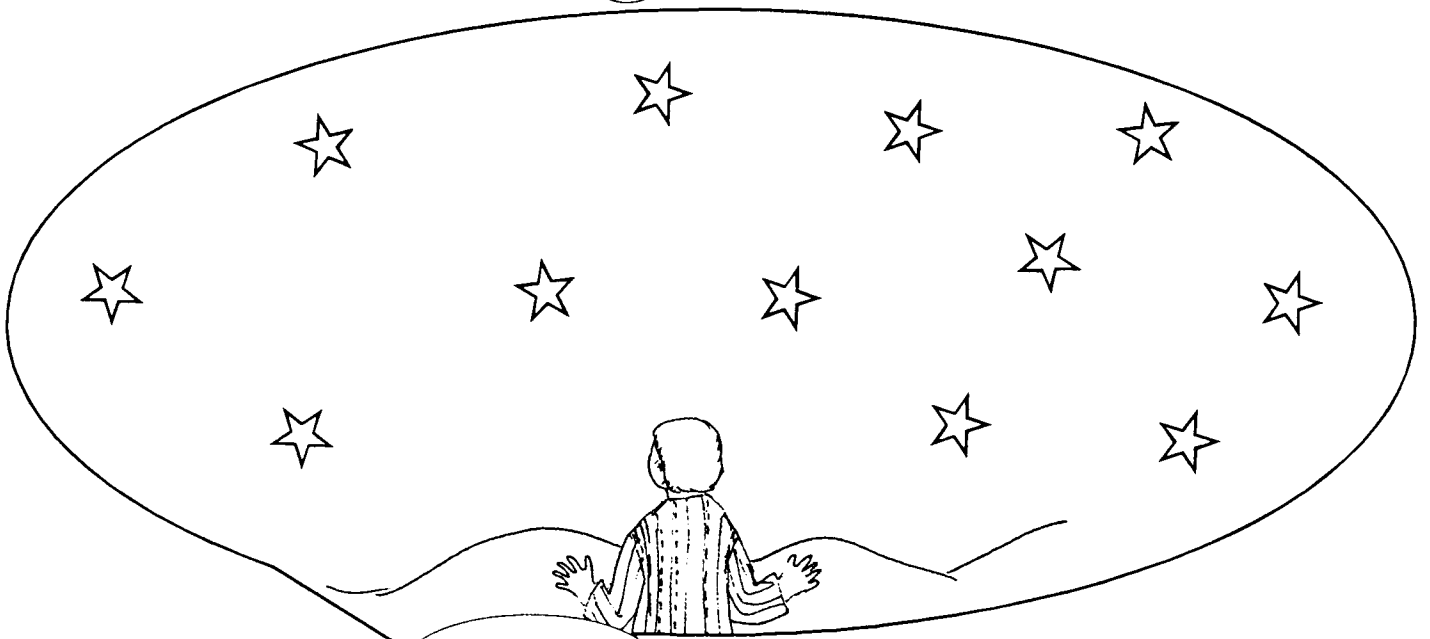
\_\_\_\_\_ The LORD was with Joseph when his brothers  
plotted to kill him.

\_\_\_\_\_ "The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and  
he lived in the house of his Egyptian master."  
Genesis 39:2



# Joseph's Dreams

In Joseph's dreams, who did the sheaves of grain and the stars represent?



# Joseph's Dreams

From this list, copy a name by each bundle of grain on  
1GEN12.GF10 Pg. 1.

Reuben

Issachar

Tim

Gus

Rocky

Dan

Simeon

Zebulun

Naphtali

Fred

Joseph

Gad

Levi

Bob

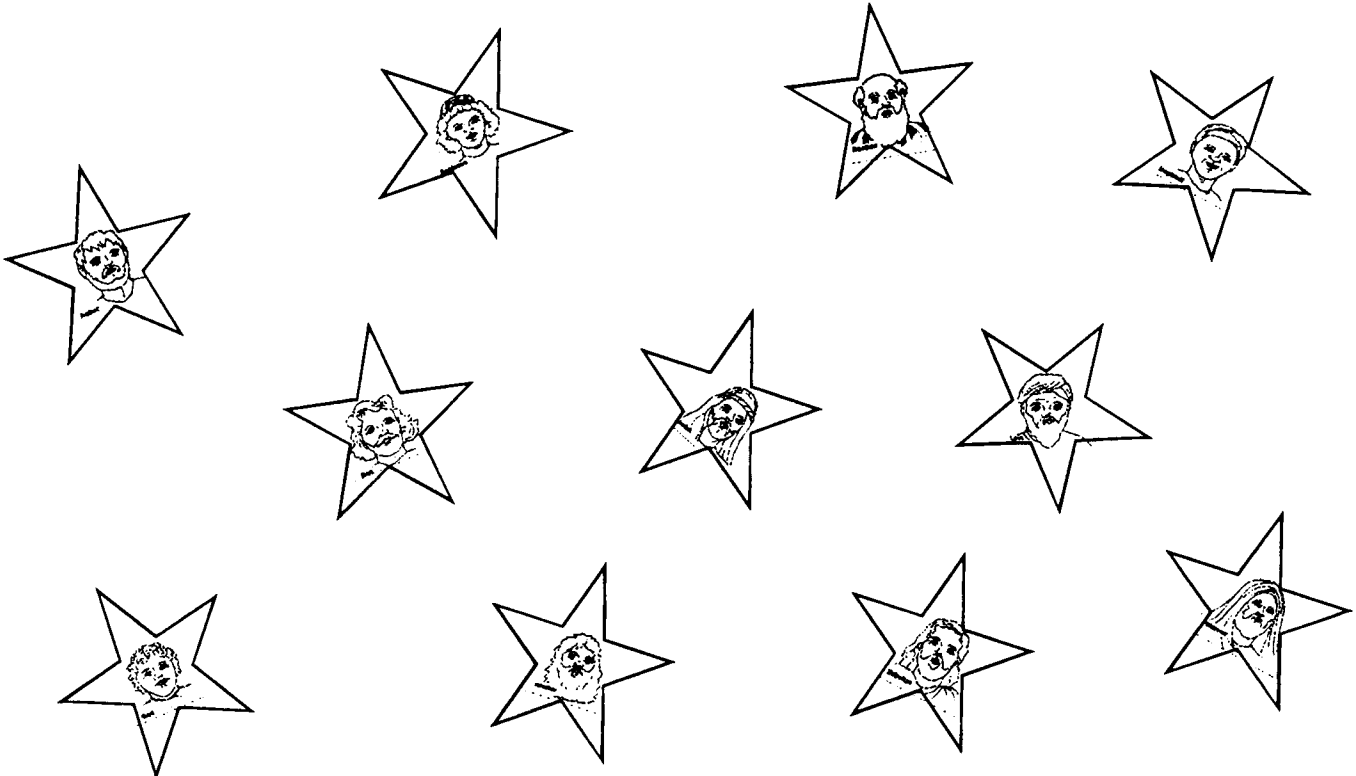
Asher

Judah

Benjamin

Slim

Cut out these pictures and glue them over the stars on 1GEN12.GF10 Pg. 1.



# "Fashion" A Coat

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

"The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." Genesis 39:2

This coat belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

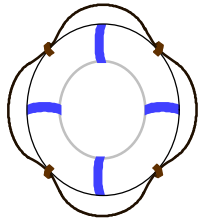
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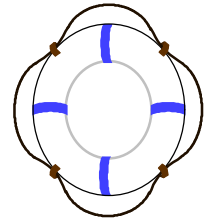
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# God's Lifeline



Dark! Damp! Cold! What was that sound? It seemed to be coming closer. Or was it? No, it was only the echoing drip of water falling. That's right, I passed some stalagtytes on my way in.

Jeff had been exploring another cave. It was his type of recreation. He had done it for years. But this time, something had really gone wrong. He had started... How long ago was it, now? Was it this morning? Yesterday? How long have I been here? Where was here, anyway?

He had taken all the safety precautions. His pack was filled with climbing equipment, energy food, an extra bottle of water and spare batteries for his helmet lamp. He had been completely outfitted. Now it was at the bottom of this cavern. How deep was it, anyway? Could I climb down? No. What were my thoughts as the pack fell away from me? He had never heard it strike bottom. There was no going down. Now his helmet lamp was gone. He had been looking for some avenue of escape. He was perched on a narrow out-cropping. Man, that was lucky. Of all the places I could have fallen, it had been right here. The ledge he was on was only about three feet long and stuck out from the sheer wall, just far enough for him to stand with his feet pointing in opposite directions. The shelf, now at least one hundred feet above him, seemed strong enough. He had slowly crossed nearly half of it. Then the rock gave way. No warning crack. No moaning. One step it was there, the next it was not. He fell, frantically clawing for any handhold, but finding none. Then he had suddenly come to a stop, on this rock. Then the batteries gave out. Now he was in the dark, a dark that was so thick that he could not even see his hand as he held it next to his face. Hold it! My cell phone. If only the battery still has power. Slowly he lowered his hand to the leg pocket in his shorts. He unsnapped it, reached in and pulled out the phone. He flipped it open and pushed the power button. The bright green light began to flash. It was powering up. Now, if I can only hold on and dial at the same time. Oh, no. What else? The light was no longer flashing green. It was now red and blinking, NO SERVICE. He was in too deep. The signals could not reach this far into almost solid rock. Now what am I going to do? There's no way up, the wall is too sheer. Can I go down, but I don't know how far down is. What was that? There it is again. In the distance he could hear footsteps. The sound from the foot falls were coming closer. He looked up and could see the dim glow of a light. It, too, was getting closer.

"Hey, Jeff, you down there?" The light flashed over the edge of the shelf. It was a fellow cave explorer, Paul.

"Yea, Paul, I'm down here. Man, am I glad to see you." Paul threw a strong rope over to Jeff. He grabbed it and was slowly pulled to safety.

"How did you find me?" Paul showed him the transmitter he was holding. Jeff had forgotten about his locator beacon. He reached into his vest pocket and pulled it out. A broad smile appeared on his face. There it was on the cover of the little black box, the brand name, LIFELINE.