



**Worship Illustration: Storybook**  
***High Seas Adventures***  
**God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis - Joshua**  
**Unit 8, Lesson 38**

# **Joseph and His Jealous Brothers**

**Genesis 37:1-36**

**"Mail call, mail call! Shore calling ship! Permission to come aboard!" A man with wisps of graying hair called up to the Caribbean Queen from his spot on the dock below. He shifted the weight of his large canvas bag from one strong shoulder to the other and waited for an answer.**

**A tall sailor with curly red hair looked over the side of the ship and shouted his reply. "Ahoy there, mailperson! Come aboard, come aboard! Have you got anything in your mailbag for me, oh, Town Crier?"**

**The Town Crier squinted against the bright sun and looked up at the face peering over the rail. "Ripply Waters, just the fella I've been lookin' for!" The Crier heaved himself aboard the ship, nearly dropping his mailbag as he struggled to climb the ladder. He plunked the bag down on the deck. "I've got a package for ya." He handed a plain brown package to Ripply.**

**"Thank you!" Ripply exclaimed. He looked down at the label and then tore into the brown wrapping paper. "It's from dear sweet Papa! Oh, how beautiful - it's a wonderful winter vest!" He put it on and puffed out his chest with pride as he showed off the bright, warm vest.**

**"Wow, you look very impressive standing on the deck in a colorful vest like that. You remind me of Joseph." The Crier said thoughtfully.**

**Ripply shook his head. "Joseph? There's nobody named Joseph aboard the Caribbean Queen."**

**The Crier laughed. "I'm talking about the Joseph in the Bible. Where's your treasure map?"**

**Ripply walked over to the Treasure Chest and lifted the heavy lid. "Captain Billy keeps a treasure map in here. I'll get it out for you right now!" He replied.**

**The Town Crier took the leather-bound Bible from Ripply. "Let me open this up and show you Joseph's miracle." He opened the Bible and turned to Genesis 37. "Now, Joseph was one of twelve brothers. Their father Jacob loved all of his sons, but his favorite was Joseph."**

**"Oh, we learned about Jacob; he was the heel catcher!" Ripply noted.**

**"That's right, but by now Jacob was much older and he had a big family, just like God promised!"**

**Ripply nodded. "Aye, I've heard that God always keeps His promises. So what happened to Joseph?"**

**"Well, because Joseph was his daddy's favorite, Jacob gave him a special coat of many colors."**

**"Wow! He must have loved that coat." Ripply exclaimed.**

**"Oh, he did," the Crier agreed. "In fact, he loved it so much that he showed it off to all of his brothers!"**

**"Did they love it, too?" Ripply asked.**

**"Here is what the Bible says." The Crier read, "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."**

**"I guess they didn't like the coat." Ripply noted.**

**"I think they hated the guy wearing it!" Crier agreed.**

**"Poor Joseph! Nobody loved him." Ripply said sadly.**

**"That's not true," the Crier disagreed. "Jacob loved him and God loved him. God loved him so much that he spoke to Joseph through dreams. That was great, but it did make his brothers hate him all the more."**

**"Oh, they're just jealous! I think I know how Joseph felt. I have five older brothers and they are all jealous of me because I'm a sea-going fellow." Ripply agreed.**

**"I see," the Crier laughed. "Anyway, through his dreams God told Joseph that He would make him a great man and that all of his brothers would bow down to him."**

**"How did his brothers feel about that?" asked Ripply.**

**"They felt like getting rid of him! They said 'Here comes that dreamer! Let's kill him.' They planned to kill him and tell their daddy a wild animal ate him up!"**

**Ripply was shocked. "That's terrible!"**

**"Yes, but God used Joseph's oldest brother Rueben to talk them out of it. They threw him down an empty well instead."**

**"God protected Joseph from death!" Ripply exclaimed, very relieved.**

**"Oh, yes," the Crier agreed. "God had big plans for Joseph. But his brothers had plans too. They sold him as a slave to some Ishmaelites that were passing by."**

**Ripply couldn't believe what he was hearing. "What? They sold him?! How are they going to explain that to daddy Jacob?"**

**"Oh, they had a plan for that too." Crier answered. "They killed a goat and then they took Joseph's beautiful coat..."**

**"The one with all the colors?!" Ripply interrupted.**

**"That's the one! They dipped the coat in the goat's blood..."**

**"Eww!" Ripply squealed in disgust.**

**The Crier ignored Ripply's reaction. "The brothers ran and told daddy Jacob that Joseph had been eaten by a wild animal and all that was left was his coat. Their jealousy made them attack God's special messenger."**

**"That's so sad! They should have just been happy for Joseph." Ripply said.**

**"You're right my friend," the Crier agreed. "We should all learn to be happy when good things happen to others, even if they don't deserve it."**

**Ripply looked so sad. "So, Joseph became someone's slave? Now his dreams will never come true!"**

**The Town Crier smiled knowingly. "Oh, yes they will. God promised."**

**"But how?" Ripply pleaded to find out.**

**The Crier grinned and hoisted his heavy mail bag over his shoulder. "That, my friend, will have to wait for another day. I've got lots of mail and lots of other boats to visit! Adios amigo," he called as he climbed down the ladder to the dock below.**

**Ripply rushed to the rail and called out after the Crier. "Wait! How will I know what happens to Joseph?"**

**"Read it for yourself! It's all in the Bible!" The Crier shouted up to Ripply.**

**"Thanks, Town Crier!" Ripply replied. He picked up Captain Billy's Bible, sat down on the treasure chest, and turned to the next chapter to see what happened to Joseph.**