

If your family and friends remember the Golden Rule, you will avoid a lot of jealousy and anger.

And Leviticus 19:11^{NIV} will also help.

Did Joseph's brothers follow Leviticus 19:11? No – they tricked or deceived their father.



Jesus said,
"I am with you
always..."
Matthew 28:20

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Joseph's Coat

Sabbath

How well do you get on with your brothers and sisters?
Draw an X on each line to show your answer.

Do you get on well with your family?

Never-----Always

Do you argue with your family?

Often-----Occasionally

Do you think unfair things happen in your family?

Often-----Never

Do you like spending time with your family?

Never-----Always

Do you wish you had a different family?

Often-----Never

Do you feel that your parents love you?

Never-----Always

Do you feel jealous of your brothers or sisters?

Often-----Never

Are you happy?

Never-----Often

Do you love your family?

No-----Yes

Sunday

Now God brought Jacob back to the land as He had promised and blessed Jacob with ten sons; but Joseph (the second from youngest) was his favourite son.

The other brothers didn't like Joseph because he told his father when they did bad things. Then one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful coat. This made his brothers jealous.

Then Joseph had a dream, "I had a dream," he said to his brothers. "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain when suddenly, my bundle stood up, and your bundles all bowed down to mine!"



Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. He said, "I dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

His brothers hated him even more because of his dream and how he talked about them. He also told his father, and his father said, "What kind of dream is that? Why would we bow to you?"

One day Joseph's brothers took the sheep to a distant town to find pasture for them and some time later, Jacob sent Joseph to see how they were. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming they said "Here comes the dreamer! Let's kill him; no one will ever know."

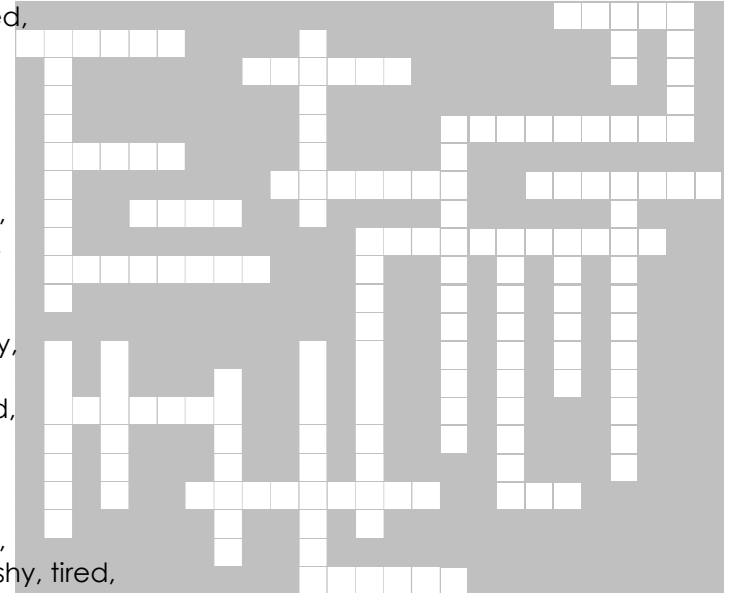
But Reuben (the oldest) said "Just throw him in this empty well." - He planned to rescue Joseph later. So they ripped off Joseph's beautiful coat and threw him into the well. Then they sat down to eat.



Friday

When you are upset, the first thing to do is identify exactly what you are feeling and why. Here are some things you might be feeling; Fit them into the grid.

Afraid, abused,
angry,
annoyed,
ashamed,
depressed,
dissatisfied,
embarrassed,
exasperated,
guilty,
impatient,
jealous, lonely,
nervous,
overwhelmed,
panicky,
puzzled,
rebellious,
regretful, sad,
scared, sick, shy, tired,
unthankful, unwanted, upset...



Once you understand what you are feeling and why then you can decide if you need to do one of the following:

- Do something to improve the situation
- Understand that each person is unique, that each person has special talents, abilities and advantages that are different from everyone else.
- Ask God to help change your negative feelings

Remember that like Joseph, God has a special plan for your life. No matter what happens His plan for you is a good one. Read Jeremiah 29:11.

Learning to understand and deal with negative emotions now will make life much easier for you in the future. James 1:2-4 tells us to be happy when we face trials because they help us to develop patience and maturity; they help us to be better people.

Thursday

Have you felt angry when someone told on you? Yes / No

Have you ever felt jealous when someone else got something special and you didn't? Yes / No

How do you feel when others are better at something than you? _____

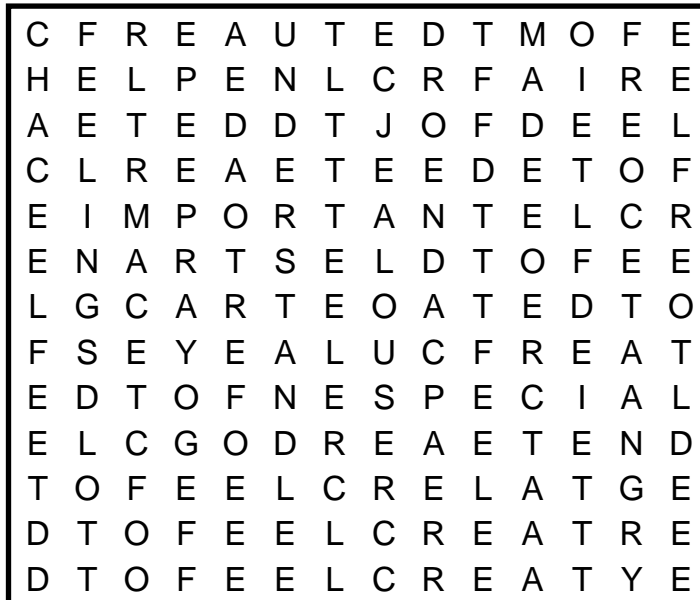
Do you feel angry when someone acts as if they are more important than you? Yes / No

God made people to have feelings; but just because you feel a certain way doesn't mean you have to act that way.

The first thing you should do is pray and talk to God. Tell Him how you feel, even if you don't know how you feel.

Talking about it with your parents or a teacher you trust can also help you to understand.

Find the underlined words in the grid.



Monday

Reuben must have gone off by himself, because while they were eating they saw a group of traders going past and Judah said, "We shouldn't kill our own brother, let's sell him to those traders!" So they sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver, and the traders took him to sell as a slave in Egypt.



When Rueben returned he was horrified when he found Joseph gone, but there was nothing he could do. So they killed a young goat, rubbed the blood on Joseph's coat and sent it to their father. And their father, Jacob, believed an animal had attacked Joseph; he was very sad and cried, saying that he would always miss Joseph.

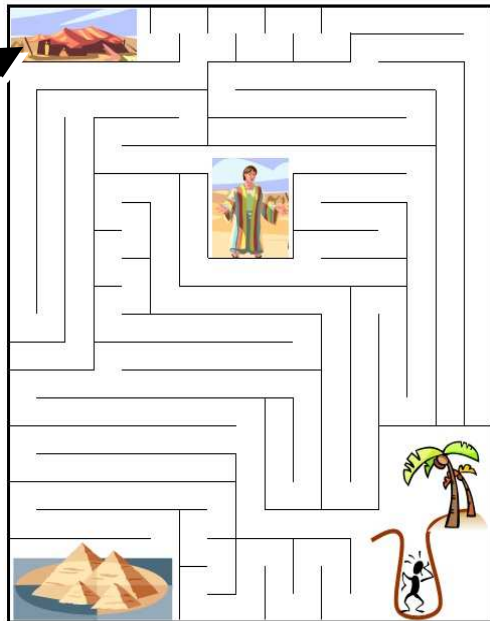
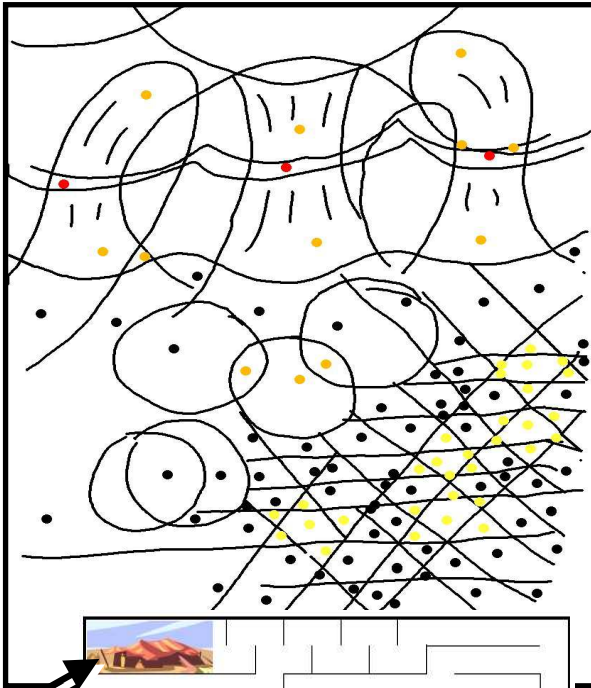
Does that sound like your family? I hope not - but even if it does, as you will find out in the next few weeks, God still loves you and has a good plan for your life.

It might be easy to lay the blame for all the bad things that happened with Joseph's brothers; you could say, "They weren't nice people, they were bullies." Joseph's father is also responsible for playing favourites and giving his other sons a reason to be jealous. But the truth is that although every person is responsible for his or her own actions, the choices and actions of everyone in the family contributed to the overall problem. Even Joseph made things worse by sharing his dreams with his brothers; no one likes a show-off and that's probably how Joseph seemed to them.

It's also quite possible that any one of those people might have made the family story different, just by changing their own attitude and actions.

Tuesday

Joseph's brothers didn't like Joseph because he told on them. Then their father gave Joseph a special gift which made the brothers jealous. Then Joseph had two strange dreams. When he told his brothers his dreams they were angry because his dreams seemed to say that they would bow to Joseph. Colour the picture to find out what Joseph dreamed about.



Start here and follow the path through the maze to tell Joseph's story.

Wednesday

Answer these questions to fill in the crossword

1. What special thing did Jacob make for his favourite son?
2. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him?
3. Joseph's brothers threw him in an old, empty _____
4. Joseph told his father when his brothers did _____ things.
5. Joseph's brothers let their father think that Joseph was _____
6. Who was Jacob's favourite son?
7. Joseph told his brothers that he dreamed their wheat sheaves _____ down to his.
8. Joseph's brothers hated him so much they wanted to _____ him;
9. Joseph dreamed that 11 _____ bowed down to him.
(Note: this reminded Joseph of his 11 brothers)
10. The _____ also bowed down in Joseph's dream.
11. Joseph's brothers sold him to some _____
12. The _____ also bowed down in Joseph's dream.

