



LOVE
For One
ANOTHER

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

ISSUES OF LOVE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37:2-11, 23-24, 28

Key Verse: *(Joseph's) brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. Genesis 37:11*

Genesis 37:2-11, 23-24a, 28 (NRSV)

Genesis 37:2-11

2 This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.

4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

5 Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed.

7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion

over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

9 He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, "Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?"

11 So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

23-24a

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore;

24a and they took him and threw him into a pit.

28

28 When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

VOCABULARY

- **Shepherding** – Tending, leading people.
- **Long Sleeve Robe** – A tunic reaching from palm to soles.
- **Hate** – Detest, loathe, have a feeling of hostility and intense dislike.
- **Sheaves** – Bundles of stalks of grain tied together.
- **Reign** – Rule over.
- **Dominion** – Govern, control, be in charge.
- **Stripped** – Removed clothing or adorning from the body.
- **Ishmaelite** – Of the tribe of Ishmael or related to Ishmael.

INTRODUCTION

The movie *Inside Out* is all about emotions. In the movie, the viewer follows a little girl named Riley who must move from her home and relocate across the country. Like many young people who might move while attending school, it's difficult; they may go through many emotions. Riley's emotions – Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust, and Sadness – guide her daily choices. All of her emotions are in her mind and they determine each reaction to her circumstances. Both Riley and her emotions have adjusted to all the challenges of the move. Joy is one of Riley's main emotions; but, as Riley grows up, more emotions are engaged and her emotions are learning what's needed to respond to her many circumstances.

Many would view Anger as a HOT HEAD!!! He gets the opportunity in the movie to express himself in arguments when competing in hockey, and things just don't go the way he feels they should. He's the emotion that usually gets Riley in trouble. *Inside Out* reminds us of the importance of all the emotions we are challenged to deal with on a regular basis. Our emotions assist us with responding to our circumstances.

BIBLE STORY

Jacob is the father of twelve sons and one daughter. Jacob treats his son Joseph (the tenth of Jacob's twelve children) better than the other brothers. Joseph has a younger brother, Benjamin, who's much younger than Joseph and was not present in the story today. Joseph is seventeen years old and working in the field with his brothers, and his father's two wives, Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph told his father about something his brothers had done. Joseph's father, Jacob, made Joseph a special robe and Joseph's brothers were jealous and angry because Joseph received special favors from their dad.

Joseph decided one day to tell his brothers about two dreams. One dream he told his brothers was about how they were in the field gathering sticks, and Joseph's bundle of sticks stood up before his brothers, and the brothers' sticks bowed down to Joseph's bundle. His brothers could not believe it, and asked if Joseph was trying to say they would bow down to Joseph. The brothers hated Joseph even more! The second dream Joseph told had the moon, stars, and sun bowing down to him. His father heard of the dream and questioned Joseph. However, Joseph's father, Jacob, knew God's promise and retained the dream in his mind. The brothers were upset with Joseph and plotted to get rid of him. They decided to sell their brother into slavery, and Joseph ended up in Egypt.

LIFE APPLICATION

Sibling rivalry is a thing! Brothers and sisters struggle to get along. They argue about many things. There are times when siblings get mad or jealous of one another. However, it's not just siblings who get into disagreements. Cousins, friends, and other relatives in close relationships often act like siblings, and disagree or become jealous of one another. Even when we are jealous, envious, or angry with our loved ones, we still LOVE them. We love family even when we disagree with their actions, their words, and their expressed thoughts.

Today's lesson reminds us that we will experience emotions concerning our family and our friends. We must acknowledge our emotions and find ways to communicate effectively how we feel or perceive the things which cause us anger, jealousy, or envy.

Secondly, today's lesson reminds us that sometimes we will experience favoritism. There are times when you will be perceived as the favorite of parents, relatives, teachers, bosses, or friends. Then, there are times when we feel that other persons receive favoritism.

Think of:

- a time when you felt angry, jealous, or envious. Describe your emotions and how you handled the situation.
- a time when you felt someone was being treated differently or being shown favoritism. How did you feel? What was your response?

SUMMARY

Jealousy is not always a bad thing; jealousy is a sign of someone's belief that he/she is losing something or someone or receiving less favor. God is jealous when we worship something other than God; it's called idolatry. Joseph's brothers' jealousy was the result of them feeling as if they were losing their father's love and attention. Joseph's dreams demonstrated to them their loss of authority as his older brothers. Joseph's brothers' Jealousy in regards to Joseph's favoritism and dreams was a natural response.

Jacob, Joseph's dad, knew God had promised him and his ancestors that they would be a great nation, and God would multiply them from generation to generation (Genesis 12). Therefore, Joseph's dream reminded Jacob of God's promise. Many of us have dreams, and there are times when we see our dreams become reality. It is in those moments we realize God's promises are true.

Emotions are real; we feel love, hate, anger, and jealousy. Joseph's brothers responded to their emotions by selling their brother. It

probably wasn't the best response to their emotions and doesn't look like the best solution for Joseph.

CLOSING DEVOTION

Lord, help us to manage our emotions. Allow us to demonstrate love to everyone even when we feel they aren't lovable. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Using the word "Joseph," find as many words as you can from each letter that would align with today's lesson.

J

O

S

E

P

H

GOD REWARDS OBEDIENCE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 41:14-57

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52

Key Verses: So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you." Genesis 41:39-40

Genesis 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52 (NRSV)

25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.

27 The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine.

28 It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

29 There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.

30 After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land.

31 The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous.

32 And the doubling of

Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

33 Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt."

37-40

37 The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

38 Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone else like this—one in whom is the spirit of God?"

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

50-52

50 Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.

51 Joseph named the firstborn

Manasseh, “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.”

52 The second he named

Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.”

VOCABULARY

- **Quickly** – To bring or move swiftly.
- **Thin** – Having little wealth, of low status and vulnerable to oppression.
- **Ears** – The fruit-part of a cereal grain plant, including the husk that surrounds the grain.
- **Magicians** – A class of persons who interpret dreams and omens, and (seemingly) perform supernatural acts.
- **Interpret** – Give the meaning or significance of words or signs.

INTRODUCTION

Dreams fuel us. They invigorate us. They move us to take chances and step outside of our comfort zone. We can either dream small or dream big. We set our own limits just as we create our own expectations. So, who says that a dream has to be something you long for in the future (as suggested by Mark Victor Hansen, author of *The Richest Kids in America*)?

Some people believe that our dreams are a glimpse into our future. Others believe that dreams are mere illusions and have no connection to actual life. What do you believe about dreams? Do you have dreams of your future? Or, do you actually have a plan for your future in which you believe that if you follow your plan then you have fulfilled your dreams?

Regardless of your belief toward dreams, dreams are real. Medical doctors’ research has discovered that dreams are real, and they

occur during the “rapid eye movement” (REM) stage of sleep, when our brain is most active. No one knows why we dream but each night we have anywhere between four to six dreams. We may or may not remember our dreams, but our mind is actively creating stories during our sleep. Researchers state that dreams help us to solve complex problems, incorporate our memories, and process our emotions during our unconscious state.

BIBLE STORY

Pharaoh told Joseph that Joseph had the ability to interpret dreams. Joseph affirmed that it was not his ability, but God’s interpretation. Pharaoh shared his dream with Joseph. He first told the dream of the seven thin cows eating the seven fat cows, but the thin cows remained thin. He then told the dream of the seven ears of grain/corn where the withered and dying grain/corn ate the seven good corn/grains. Joseph responded to Pharaoh that his dreams were the same. God was revealing to Pharaoh what God was about to do. Joseph explained that the seven good cows were seven years and the seven good ears were seven years also, therefore, the dreams were one. The seven lean cows after them, as well as the corn, represented seven years of famine.

Joseph then again affirmed that God was revealing God’s plan to Pharaoh. There would be seven years of great plenty in all the land of Egypt. Thereafter, there would be seven years of famine, and all the plenty would be forgotten. Joseph told Pharaoh to assign someone to watch over the land and save one-fifth of the produce during the plentiful years. Pharaoh agreed.

Joseph was assigned the position as Pharaoh recognized Joseph’s relationship with God. God also stated that no one would be higher than Joseph except Pharaoh himself. Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons by the daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. Joseph named his first son *Manasseh* for he said, “God has

made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." Of the second son, *Ephraim*, he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes."

LIFE APPLICATION

It may be difficult to hold on to dreams of future success when faced with extreme hardships. Our experiences help encourage us in achieving our dreams or our goals. Joseph experienced betrayal by his family, false accusations by an employee, and imprisonment for something he never did, yet Joseph believed things would get better knowing that God had not forgotten.

In life, things don't always go the way we planned and there are times when it feels as if everything and everyone is against us and our future. However, Joseph's story reminds us that even when we are locked in a dungeon, God is still working through others on our behalf. Don't give up, stay faithful and obedient to God's Word and commandments, and keep believing!

Joseph knew God was faithful and even while in the dungeon he knew God was consistent. Using Joseph's story, can you identify anyone whose life's story can be a present-day Joseph, maybe someone who experienced extreme hardship but eventually experienced great success? How does faithfulness to God translate in times of crisis or hardship?

SUMMARY

Joseph trusted God through all his hardships. God provided Joseph with the ability to interpret dreams and when Pharaoh needed an interpretation, Joseph was in the right place to provide that service. Joseph's love and obedience to God made Joseph wise, and gave him the ability to solve complex problems. His problem-solving skills motivated Pharaoh to appoint Joseph to the second in command over all of Egypt. God has equipped each of us with talents, given for God's future glory. Each of us has a unique quality that is destined for suc-

cess. It's our responsibility to trust God and our abilities to do great things.

CLOSING DEVOTION

God, help us to see your plan in our lives. Allow us to walk through the doors of opportunities knowing that you are the reason those doors are opened. Let us see success through our hardships, victory through our failures, and wins through our losses. We trust you for our future. Amen.

ACTIVITY

Create a comic strip to illustrate Joseph's story. You don't have to be a great artist; you are free to use "stick people." If you have an electronic device and access to the internet, see <https://www.make-beliefscomix.com/Comix/>.

ACTIVITY

Thinking of the future, brainstorm five things in each of the following categories and list everything that comes to your mind (even if it seems outrageous).

Want To Do	What To Be	Want To Have

Look at the list; place an “*” next to items which you believe can actually happen. Take your “*” items and identify how long it will take for those things to occur.

Less than one year	1-5 years	6-10 years	More than 10 years