

## “SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS”

1. Growing up, how well did you get along with your brothers or sisters? Who was the baby in the family? How was that person treated?  

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2. Is your relationship different with them, now that you are older? How so? To what do you attribute that: Mellowing with age? Little brother got bigger? Everybody eventually moved away?  

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3. This family is quite conflicted by all that goes on here. Try to empathize with what each character is feeling: What feelings are aroused by Jacob's sons plotting revenge on Joseph (vv. 18ff)? By Reuben's rescue attempt and sense of loss (vv.21f,29f)? By Judah's successful intervention (vv.26f)? By the sons' deception of Jacob (vv.31-33)? By Jacob's lament (vv.34f)? By Joseph's actual fate (vv.28,36)?  

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4. With such empathy, how do you account for why they do what they do? (A role play might help here.)  

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5. Joseph's story abounds with irony in chapters 37-50. In chapter 37, how many ironies can you find? What future ironies do you anticipate in the rest of this story?  

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6. If you were Joseph just now, would you be despising your dreams from God, or drawing comfort from them? Why?  

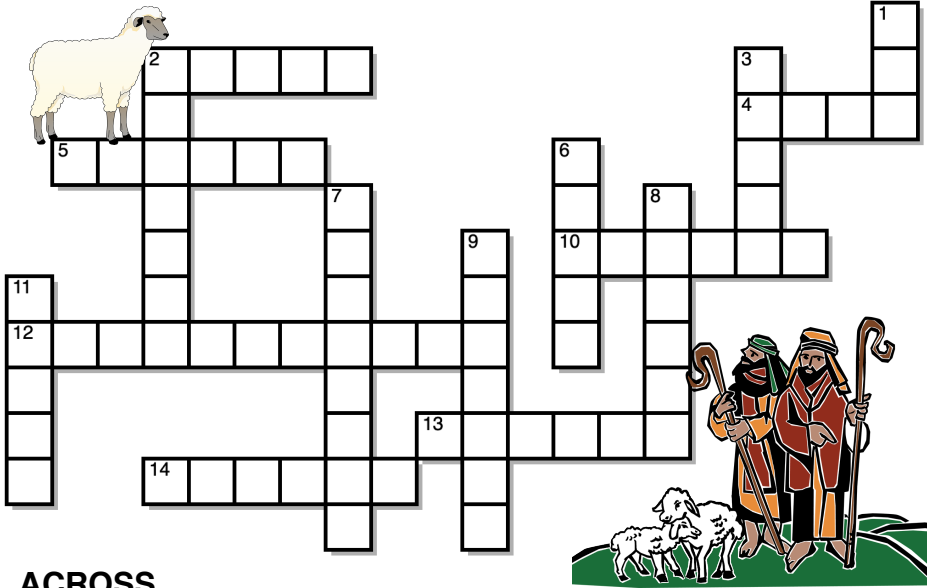
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7. As a family therapist, what advice would you give to each of the characters — Joseph, Jacob and the brothers - concerning their own responsibility for the events of this chapter? How would this advice help bring the family closer together?  

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8. How could your therapeutic advice help you in your own family relationships? What will you do today to make sure you follow your own (and God's) advice on this?  

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9. As this chapter draws to a close, one can see Jacob and Joseph struggling as we do with the "if-only's". Complete these sentences: (Jacob) "If only I hadn't sent him to Shechem,.."; (Joseph) "If only I hadn't,.."  

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10. What is one of your biggest regrets? "If only I hadn't..., then...."  

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**DOWN**

1 After throwing Joseph into the pit, the brothers sat down to do this.

2 Where had Joseph's brothers initially gone to pasture their father's flocks?

3 Joseph was carried all the way to this country.

6 What was lacking in the pit they threw Joseph into?

7 The Midianites sold Joseph to this officer of Pharaoh.

8 This brother sought to save Joseph's life and return him to his father.

9 The pit that they threw Joseph into was actually a \_\_\_\_\_, with walls of slick masonry.

11 A man found Joseph wandering in a \_\_\_\_\_.

**ACROSS**

2 Jacob said, "I will go down to \_\_\_\_\_ to my son, mourning."

4 The brothers took Joseph's robe and dipped it into the blood of this animal.

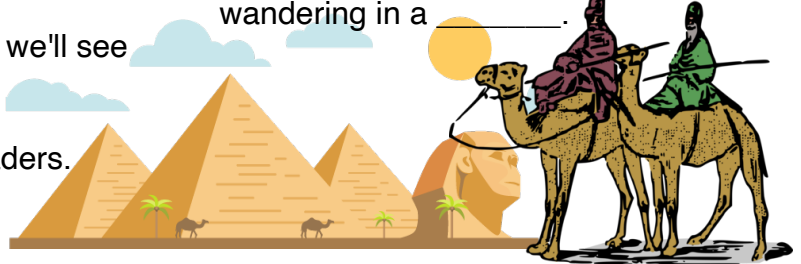
5 "We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we'll see what becomes of his \_\_\_\_\_!"

10 Joseph was sold for this many pieces of silver.

12 The brothers sold Joseph to these Midianite traders.

13 Jacob sent Joseph from the \_\_\_\_\_ Valley.

14 Joseph's brothers had moved on to this place.



**WORD SEARCH:**

- brothers
- pasture
- Shechem
- Israel
- Joseph
- sending
- flocks
- wandering
- looking
- Dothan
- plotted
- kill
- pits
- animal
- Reuben
- wilderness
- blood
- robe
- rescue
- meal
- Midianites
- caravan
- camels
- gum
- balsam
- resin
- Judah
- silver
- sold
- sackcloth
- mourning
- captain

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