

Genesis 37:1-11 New Living Translation

Joseph's Dreams

1 So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner. **2** This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. **3** Jacob^[a] loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe.^[b] **4** But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. **5** One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. **6** "Listen to this dream," he said. **7** "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" **8** His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. **9** Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" **10** This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" **11** But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

Footnotes:

- a 37:3a Hebrew *Israel*; also in 37:13. See note on 35:21.
- b 37:3b Traditionally rendered *a coat of many colors*. The exact meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain

Questions

1. What was the result of Jacob favoring Joseph over his other sons?
2. What was the result of Joseph sharing his dream with his brothers?

How would you respond if your own brother or sister did this?

3. Explain how Joseph's father Jacob responded to the dream.
4. Have you ever been misunderstood even though you were telling the truth? Explain.