

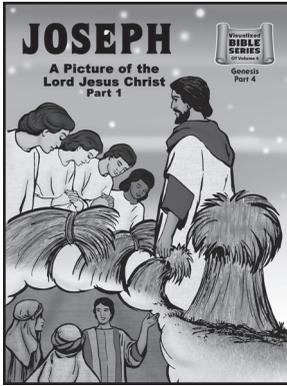
JOSEPH, Part 1

A Picture of the Lord Jesus

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER (Part 1)

Scripture to be studied: Genesis 37; all verses mentioned in the lesson

The aim of the lesson: To lead my students to a deeper understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Old Testament picture of Joseph.

What your students should know: While Joseph may be *like* the Lord Jesus in certain ways, Christ is greater, more wonderful.

What your students should feel: Amazement that God would reveal through Joseph, hundreds of years beforehand, something of what His own dear Son would be like.

What your students should do:

Unsaved: Place their trust in the Saviour who died for their sins.

Saved: Determine to study the Bible more carefully so they will see other likenesses between Joseph and the Lord Christ.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Joseph, the beloved son (Genesis 37:3-4).
2. Joseph and his father (Genesis 37:10-13; compare Genesis 49:22-26; 50:1-14).
3. Jesus, the beloved Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).
4. Jesus and God His Father (John 1:1-3; 1 Peter 1:18-20).

The verse to be memorized:

God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions. (Acts 7:9b-10a)

THE LESSON

Has anyone ever told you, "You are exactly like your father"? Or, "You look just like your mother"? (*Teacher:* Encourage students to discuss how they are like their parents.)

It is not at all unusual for people to be like those who lived *before* them. This has always been true—even in Bible times. But there is something surprisingly different recorded in the Bible. Some who lived in Old Testament times are like those who lived *afterward*—even hundreds of years after! The history of one such person is given in the very first Bible book,

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The events of the Old Testament occurred hundreds of years before those in the New Testament. Yet there are various accounts recorded in the Old Testament which picture (or illustrate) New Testament truths. Some Bible facts may be hard for us to understand. So God, the Author of the Bible, often helps us by using things we do understand to picture those that are difficult. Some of these word-pictures are called "types." A type can be an object, a person, a custom or a happening. It is real itself. But it pictures something far greater than itself.

Joseph is not referred to in the New Testament as a *type* of Christ. But many of his experiences were *like* the experiences Christ had in His life. God seems to have given us beforehand (in Joseph) a picture showing what His Son would be like 1,900 years later. Thus the title for this volume and the next: *Joseph, a Picture of the Lord Jesus*.

As you will see, in this first series we have two illustrations from the life of Joseph, followed by two from the life of Christ. Depending upon the age and ability of your students, you may prefer to make two lessons out of one. If so, you will use alternate illustrations. (In lesson #1, for example, illustrations #1 and #3 for the first lesson.)

Please explain that all conversation in the lessons is not exact, but as it *may* have been.

Genesis. Some of Joseph's experiences are much like those of Another. God seems to have given us in this Old Testament man a preview of One who appears in the New Testament. Listen carefully.

Jacob, whom we studied in the last series, was a trickster. In time, he reaped what he sowed. For seven years he had worked in Haran for his Uncle Laban. In return he was to receive Laban's younger daughter, Rachel. But instead of getting Rachel as his wife, Jacob got Leah, her older sister. His uncle had tricked him! Jacob was angry and brokenhearted.

"Don't be upset, Jacob," Laban said smoothly. "I'll also give you Rachel now if you will work seven more years for her—without wages!"