



Genesis 45:4b-5 (NIV)

"I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."

Our story today is about a Bible character named Joseph. Joseph's Leadership Leaf is FORGIVENESS.

Last week's story was about Abraham, who welcomed God's messengers into his tent. Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac grew up and had a son named Jacob, who was also called Israel. Jacob had 12 sons. One of the sons of Jacob (or Israel) is named Joseph. So Joseph is Abraham's great-grandson. Joseph has ten older brothers and one younger brother.

Now Joseph is his father's favorite, and his brothers are jealous.

Joseph even has a special colorful coat that is a gift from his father. When Joseph wears that Coat of Many Colors, his brothers feel lots of anger towards him..

One day, Joseph is wearing his special coat when his father sends him to the fields to find his older brothers. When they see him, Joseph's jealous brothers team up against him. They throw Joseph into a pit (like a big hole). Then they sell Joseph to some traders passing by. Joseph is taken to Egypt.

His brothers even bring Joseph's coat back to their father and tell him Joseph is dead. But really Joseph is still alive in Egypt. God protects Joseph and Joseph stays loyal to God.

Joseph impresses the Pharaoh (that's like the king of Egypt) and he becomes rich and powerful. And he still stays loyal to God.

Years pass and there is a famine in Canaan where Joseph's brothers live. That means they were starving. Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to try to buy food, and who do they find? Their own brother Joseph whom they had hurt.

Joseph recognizes them and decides to help them even after what they did to him. The Bible tells us he kissed all his brothers and cried over them.

Joseph tells them that it was God's plan for him to save them. All of Joseph's brothers and their wives and children and his father came to live with Joseph in Egypt.

Because Joseph shows FORGIVENESS to his brothers, the whole family of Israel is saved from starvation.

