

CHILDREN'S BIBLE INSTITUTE

GREAT MEN & WOMEN OF GOD



A SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS BY MASTER MINISTRIES - ABB THOMAS

GRADES 4-6 - COURSE A - LESSON 3

3 LESSON

JOSEPH

This Bible Institute series will offer to you two lessons (#3, #4) on the wonderful life of Joseph. He faced lies, hatred, lust, and all the temptations that power brings, yet he was true to God and true to his fellow man.

This story covers ten chapters of Genesis, although it is not required that you read it all. Let's start with the coat of many colors.

THE COAT BROUGHT PROBLEMS

Jacob, the Father, had a total of 12 sons. He also had a favorite, and treated him so very special that even the family noticed it. Jacob gave his son Joseph an unusual coat, far better and more attractive than the coats of his brothers.

In Joseph's time, most coats, often called cloaks, were just plain, cut off at the knees, with short sleeves. Not this coat, it was the best that money could buy.



"Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors."

Genesis 37:3

THE DEVIL FINDS A PLACE IN THEIR HEARTS

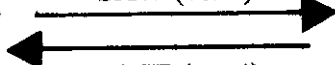
In your own Bible, look up the next verse (Genesis 37:4) and print below what two things were in their heart already:

- 1) "they _____ him".
- (2) "could not _____ peaceably unto him".

Let's see how jealousy leads to hate and hate causes wrong thoughts, wrong talk (hateful words), and then came wrong actions.



SAW (vs. 4)



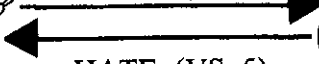
HATE (vs. 4)



HATE COMES FROM SEEING THE WRONG SIDE OF A GOOD THING



HEARD (VS. 5)



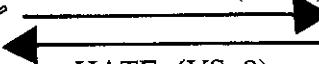
HATE (VS. 5)



HATE COMES FROM HEARING HALF-TRUTHS GOSSIP, EXAGGERATIONS, ETC.



THOUGHTS (VS. 8)



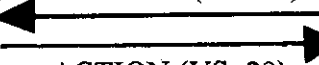
HATE (VS. 8)



HATE GROWS LARGER WHEN WE KEEP IT IN AND THINK ON IT



HATE (VS. 20)



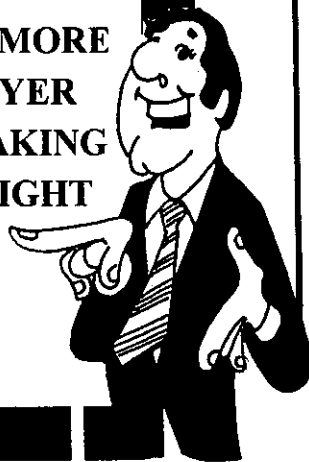
ACTION (VS. 20)



HATE FINALLY LEADS TO MORE HATE (INSIDE) AND THEN TO ACTION (OUTSIDE)

Always Remember...

YOU ARE NEVER MORE THAN ONE PRAYER AWAY FROM MAKING EVERYTHING RIGHT WITH GOD!



Hate pushes out love. There is not room for both hate and love in your heart. One runs the other away. Hate never helps. Hate, envy, jealousy, always hurts more than you. Hate hurts at least three, and often hurts our friends and family too.

(1) IT HURTS THE ONE WHO HAS THE HATE.

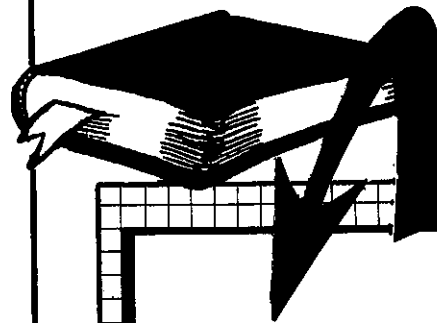
When our mind is full of evil thoughts, it causes us to lie, cheat, gossip, etc.

(2) IT HURTS THE ONE WHO IS HATED.

That person will only receive unfair words and thoughts. They will not be helped, only hurt.

(3) IT HURTS THE HEART OF GOD.

God knows our thoughts. Hate hurt our Lord even before any action was taken.



OPEN YOUR BIBLE - FIND THESE VERSES - FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

EPHESIANS 4:26-27

"Be _____ angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."

"Neither give place to the _____."

EPHESIANS 4:29

"Let no _____ communications proceed out of your mouth, but that which is _____ to the use of edifying, that it may minister _____ unto the hearers."

That's what the brothers of Joseph were doing, giving the devil a place in their heart. Hate moved the love of God aside, even that special "family" love.

God tells us, don't go to sleep with hate inside.

That's the bad side of the story. But God can change it all!



HOW JOSEPH RESPONDS TO HATE

Joseph, still a young man, was in trouble. His very own family of brothers talked of killing him. They chose to sell him to a caravan travelling to Egypt (far away). He would be treated badly there and live as a slave, and hopefully, they would never see this "pest" again. Hate can lead to *wrong actions*, even thoughts of murder.



THE LIFE OF A SLAVE

A slave's life was hopeless. Most had no "off days" of their own. Only long and hard work would be their entire lifetime.

Joseph was blessed by God, because of his intelligence and his attitude. He was chosen to have a more responsible job than others. He lived in a rich man's home.

Some slaves worked in copper mines, which brought death to many, because of the deadly fumes breathed by the workers. God protected Joseph and honored his faith. Joseph's life, in turn, honored God!

JOSEPH TRUSTS HIS GOD

Faith or trust in God was all Joseph had. He was a slave in a foreign land, without family, without friends, and without hope of returning home some day. But, he still had his God! He would find out that when God promises never to leave us or forsake us, He means it.

READ NOW - GENESIS 39:1-6

(1) FAITH IN GOD HELPED JOSEPH

Joseph had faith in God. Others could "see" how he had God on his side.

"And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man..."

As Joseph was following his God, he was honest and kind to others around him, even though he was a slave to those around him. He was honest in "little jobs", and so Potiphar could trust Joseph to do "bigger jobs". God is working in Joseph's life!

(2) FAITH IN GOD BUILDS CHARACTER

Good character comes from the inside. It is how we act when no one sees. Will we still be honest when no one else is around? Would we still refuse to cheat or steal, even if we knew for sure no one would ever find out?

Joseph had no marks against him. Potiphar saw good in Joseph. He was ready to trust Joseph for bigger jobs.

READ NOW - GENESIS 39:7-9

(3) JOSEPH'S FAITH IN GOD IS TESTED AGAIN

Potiphar's wife was not faithful to her own husband. She wanted Joseph to be her lover. She did not love him, she *lusted* him. She wanted someone who was not her own.

Joseph recognized that as sin. Joseph knew that God sees, even if Potiphar never knew. Taking something that belongs to another is always the wrong thing to do - it is always sin.

Cont., page 4

GOD ANSWERS JOSEPH'S FAITH

Remember, *faith is believing God in real life*. God, in turn, honors the one He can trust. Faith is not complicated. Faith is simple trust. Faith is belief without question.

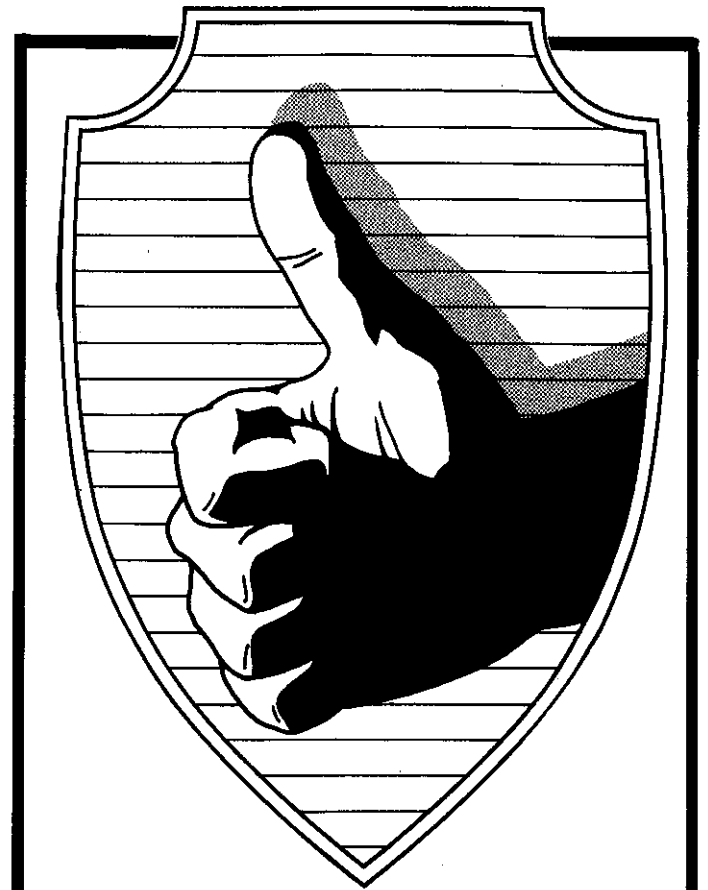
Although Joseph *would not* sin, Potiphar's wife *would*. She lied and had Joseph put into prison. Yet, others could see that his character was the same behind bars, as in the rich man's house. It was now God's turn again. God brought him out of prison and honored his faith.

Joseph *continued* to increase in power and responsibility. He became second only to Pharaoh in power over all the people.

God honored him even in his dreams, as he saw that famine (no food could be grown) was on the way. God gave him a plan that would save the people from starvation. It would prove to even save his own personal family, including his own brothers.

Over and over, Joseph prayed and God gave him one answer after another. *Obedience is honored by God*.

Ask God to help you right now to be like Joseph, in *honesty* and *obedience*. Whatever comes, you will always **DO RIGHT!**



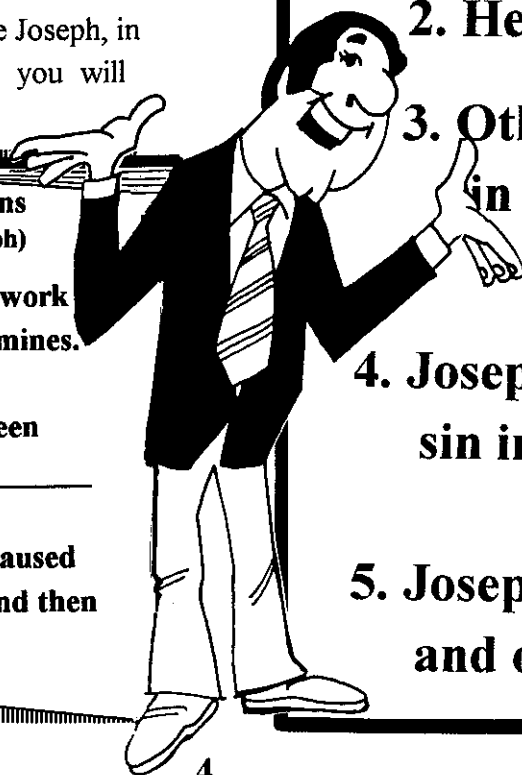
WHAT JOSEPH DID RIGHT!

1. He refused to sin.
2. He had faith in God.
3. Others could see good in Joseph's life.

4. Joseph recognized the sin in Potiphar's wife.
5. Joseph lived in honesty and obedience.

JOSEPH...Review Questions (find answers in story of Joseph)

1. Often, for slaves, what kind of work brought death? _____ mines.
2. What started the trouble between Joseph and his brothers? _____
3. Jealousy led to hate and hate caused wrong thoughts, wrong talk, and then came wrong _____.



CORONATION

IN A CORNFIELD



CHAPTER 3

by Adriana Kassner

The old lady held Felisha up and inspected her closer. "Wait a minute," she said, "I think I was mistaken. My Fluffy has one gray paw. This cat is solid white."

There was a huge sigh of relief. Everyone was overjoyed, especially Anna Katrina.

We learned that the lady's name was Mrs. Bingham. We sort of felt sorry for her because she seemed to be very lonely and she seemed to miss her cat very much.

"Oh, I'm sure he's fine," she said, "He's always been very independent. Still I would appreciate it if you children would keep an eye out for him. And don't forget my \$100 reward offer is still good."

We promised Mrs. Bingham that we would.

She could tell that we were very attached to Felisha and commended us for being honest enough to turn her in.

Just then we all heard the ice cream truck coming. "Ice cream's on me!" announced Mrs. Bingham.

The ice cream truck driver was Mr. Henry, an elderly black man who was a friend to all our families. He lived across the river in a small house that was once part of the Underground Railroad.

We all loved Mr. Henry. Whenever we saw him on his way we greeted him with enthusiasm. The ice cream was the perfect refreshment for our long, hot walk back to the Golden City.

We arrived to discover much to our surprise, that another group of kids were there. It was the Eversoles, a rough bunch of redheaded relations. Ricky Eversoles, the oldest, was sitting in the throne room with my own crown on his head.

"What are you doing in our fort? We built it with our own hands!"

"I don't care if you did, all this is on our property," he said cynically. "So, it looks like I'm the king of this castle now."

"That's not true," said Heiko, "this property belongs to my grandfather." "Prove it!" they fired back.

We couldn't prove anything. Heiko's grandfather was much too sickly to hike down there and settle it.

An explosion of yelling and fighting broke out between both sides. Peter, James, and John were especially mad; they stormed into the castle and tried to push the Eversoles out. Anna Katrina and I were next to get in on the action. I began pulling Eversole's hair while Anna attacked Molly. There was shoving, kicking, and hitting.

Finally, Tirzah began to cry. In the end, we realized that we were outnumbered and we trudged away disheartened, wiping our wounds.

That night I laid awake for a long time plotting our revenge on the Eversoles. Just as I was finally drifting off to sleep, I thought I heard sirens reeling someplace in the distance.

The next morning the word was all over town that during the night a group of hateful vandals had set fire to Mr. Henry's house! Mr. Henry had barely escaped alive! The house burned to the ground. The town had lost a historic landmark and poor Mr. Henry had lost all of his possessions.

We learned that for a while Mr. Henry would be living with his brother-in-law, Rev. Rupert. As soon as we were able, our whole group headed off to visit him.

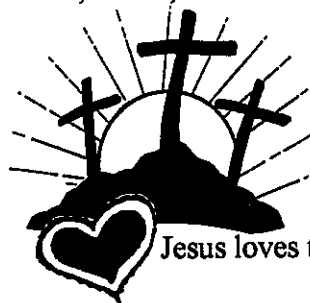
We all expected that Mr. Henry would be very angry about what had happened, but he was not angry. Instead, he actually seemed to feel sorry for the men who burned his house down. We couldn't understand why they would want to do such a thing to begin with.

"You see children, my house was once a refuge for runaway slaves." Mr. Henry explained. "Some of these people don't like that very much."

"But why do they hate the slaves?" asked Tirzah wide eyed.

"I guess it's because they don't have God's love in their hearts. They haven't realized that God does not have any favorite children. He loves us all the same. Do you know the song 'Jesus Loves the Little Children'?"

Peter, James, and John knew it. They sang the words along with Mr. Henry.



"Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red 'n yellow, black 'n white
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world."

"Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. If those men had Jesus in their hearts then they would have no room for hate anymore."

Mr. Henry certainly wasn't angry, but he was very sad. We walked with him to his house that was now a pile of rubble and ash.

We searched diligently for just one thing worth keeping that had not been too damaged by the fire. But there was nothing left.

Then, just as we were about to go, Mr. Henry stooped down and picked something up. It was an old guitar, warped and charred from the hot flames. Its metal strings were black and coiled.



It seemed that he held it in silence for a long time. "My Father gave this to me, when I was a boy," he said.

Then a large tear formed in his eye and trickled down the side of his face.

The whole situation made us re-evaluate our problem with the Eversoles. We were still determined to get our fort back, but after spending time with Mr. Henry we realized that maybe there could be a better way to deal with things other than revenge.

C.T.STUDD... Review Questions (find answers in story)

1. God sent Mr. Studd first to China, then to _____, then at age 50 to the land of _____.
2. He wrote nearly _____ hymns.
3. How many attended his funeral? _____

C. T. STUDD 1860 - 1931

England, America, China, India, Africa



Charles Thomas Studd came to know Jesus Christ as his Saviour at 16 years of age. About this same time he was becoming the most outstanding cricket player in England. By 1882 he was considered one of the best players in the world and one of the best known.

A few years later in a D.L. Moody meeting, he got a great burden for souls, and felt that God could use him well in China. After finishing Cambridge University, six other students there joined him in this goal and became known as the "Cambridge Seven". In 1885 they sailed for Shanghai and began studying the language for up to ten hours a day.

On his 25th birthday, he was to inherit \$145,000., which was very much in that day. He had already decided to put it into the Lord's work. He immediately mailed checks to D.L. Moody, George Mueller, the Salvation Army, and the China Inland Mission. He had still \$17,000 left which he wanted to give to his new bride as a wedding gift. However, she said, "Charlie, what did the Lord tell the rich young ruler to do? Sell all. Well, then, we will start clear with the Lord at our wedding." They sent the final money to Gen. Booth of the Salvation Army. The couple then left with \$5 and some bedding and for the next 41 years of marriage together God provided their every need!

Their first house was considered "haunted", but the only one they could find. For five years they never went outside without curses from their neighbors.

In 1894, D.L. Moody requested C.T. tour America telling of the "Cambridge Seven" and their results in China. He stayed 18 months, speaking usually six times a day. Many were inspired to go into missions. Then, it was off to India. His father had wanted one of the family to take the Gospel to India. His battles with asthma caused him much pain in gasping for air, but he continued to see thousands saved.

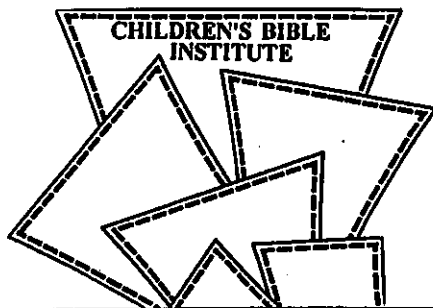
While visiting back in England in 1908 he saw a sign, "Cannibals want missionaries". He was now 50 years old, but felt God's call to Africa. After nine months of hard travels, living in tents, they found themselves on the edge of the vast forests. Once, a poisonous snake slept in his covers all night, but never bit him. Only five years earlier these natives were shooting arrows at any new arrivals in this land. Throughout the forest areas he began to build churches to seat the people. One building would seat 1200, another 600 came to worship each week in another area. His health began to fail even more.

Mrs. Studd travelled in behalf of her Lord and her husband. She spoke in America, New

(Story ends of page 8)

Zealand, Tasmania, South Africa, and Canada. She was considered one of the finest missionary speakers in the world.

In other meetings, up to 2000 would come to hear Studd. He wrote nearly 200 hymns. C.T. Studd took on the task of translating the New Testament into another dialect at nearly 70 years of age. He worked night and day, some 18 hours without stopping. He had more than one heart attack. Studd had asthma, recurring malaria, dysentery, chills, pains of gallstones, yet he continued to preach many hours of every day. On the day of his death, he had finished speaking for five hours the day before, and could only whisper, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!", and then he was gone. Nearly 2000 blacks, including four chiefs, were at the funeral the next day. He was buried in a simple grave.



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