

Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Gen. 37:1-11	Yoseph the Dreamer
Tuesday:	Gen. 37:12-36	Yoseph's brothers sell him into slavery
Wednesday:	Gen. 38	Yehudah and Tamar
Thursday:	Gen. 39	The story of Yoseph and Potiphar and his wife
Friday:	Gen. 40	Yoseph the Dreamer and the 2 prisoners

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be covering the beginning of the story of Yoseph. Now, let's read Gen. 37.

PARSHA POINTS

- At the age of 17 (**shva esre**), Yoseph brought an 'evil report' about some of his brothers (**achim**) to his father Yisra'el - 37:2
- Yoseph's father Yisra'el (37:3):
 - loved Yoseph more than any of his other children
 - was an old man when Yoseph was born
 - made him a long robe (**ketonet**)
- Yoseph's brothers (37:4):
 - hated him because their father loved him the most
 - were NOT able to speak to him peaceably
- Yoseph angered his brothers more when he told them about 2 (**shtayim**) dreams he had - 37:5
- In the 1st dream (**chalom**), Yoseph told his brothers that (37:6-7):
 - they were all out in the field binding sheaves
 - his sheaf rose up and stood above theirs
 - their sheaves encircled around his sheaf and bowed down to it
- In response to this first dream, his brothers told Yoseph (37:8):
 - "Are you saying you will reign/rule over us?"
- In the 2nd dream, Yoseph told his brothers that (37:9):
 - the sun (**shemesh**), moon (**yahrayach**) and 11 (**achat esre**) stars (**kochavim**) bowed down to him



- In response to this 2nd dream, Yisra'el rebuked him, saying (37:10):
 - "Are you indeed saying that your mother, your brothers and I will bow down to you?"
- Because of these dreams, his brothers envied him; but his father 'guarded' what Yoseph had reported about these dreams - 37:11
- When Yoseph's father sent him to Shekem to check on his brothers, Yoseph responded with the words, "Here I am" (**hineni**) - 37:13
- On the way, Yoseph met a man (**ish**) who informed him that his brothers had moved on to Dothan to feed their sheep - 37:15-16
- When Yoseph's brothers spotted him from a distance (37:18-22):
 - they plotted against him with the intent to kill him
 - they sarcastically labeled him 'Master of Dreams'
 - after they would have killed him, their plan was to throw him into a pit and tell their father that a wild beast had eaten him
 - they mocked Yoseph, exulting that now his dreams would never come to pass
 - Re'uben, the eldest brother, urged them NOT to shed Yoseph's blood, but only to throw him into the pit, so that he might rescue him later
- Yoseph's brothers (37:23-26):
 - stripped him of his long robe
 - threw him into a pit
 - sat down to eat a meal
 - saw a caravan of Yishma'elites approaching on their way to Mitsrayim (Egypt), with camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh
- Yehudah suggested to his brothers that they should sell Yoseph to the traders rather than kill him. The brothers heeded his advice - 37:27
- Yoseph was sold to the Yishma'elites for 20 (**esrim**) pieces of silver - 37:28
- When Re'uben returned to rescue Yoseph, he was so distressed to discover the pit was empty that he tore his garments - 37:29-30
- The brothers took Yoseph's long robe, dipped it in goat's blood and brought it back to show their father - 37:31-32
- Ya'aqob recognized the robe and concluded that his son was devoured by an evil beast - 37:33
- Ya'aqob tore his garments, wrapped sackcloth around his waist and mourned for Yoseph many days - 37:34
- None of Ya'aqob's children could comfort him - 37:35
- Ya'aqob wished he could go to his son in the grave as well - 37:35
- When the caravan reached Mitsrayim, Yoseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officers and captain of the palace guard - 37:36



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- What do you think it means when it says that Yoseph brought an 'evil report' about his half-brothers to Yisra'el? Was it lashon harah? Was it tattling? Was it because he thought that they were bringing shame to their father's name? (37:2)
 - Discuss the long robe that Yisra'el gave to Yoseph and its significance. (37:3)
 - Do you think if Yisra'el had NOT shown his other sons that he loved Yoseph more than them, that they would NOT have been so envious and angry toward him? (37:3-4)
 - When Yoseph shares his dream about the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing to him, why would Yisra'el interpret that the sun and moon represent Rahel and himself when Rahel was dead? (37:9-10)
 - What do you think it means when it says that Yisra'el 'guarded' his son's words? (37:11)
 - What do you think would have happened to Yoseph if the Yishma'elites had NOT bought him? Would his brothers have killed him? Would Re'uben have rescued him? (37:25-28)
 - Even though Yisra'el 'guarded' Yoseph's dreams, why do you think he believed his son was dead? (37:33-35)
 - Find parallelisms between Yoseph's story and Yeshua's life.
 - living in Mitsrayim (Egypt) (Matt. 2:13)
 - betrayed for silver (Matt. 26:15)
- * Note Yoseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver and Yeshua was sold for 30 pieces of silver.

