

A script from



“Camp Sonrise: God is With Joseph”

by
Rebecca Wimmer

What This is a fun telling of Joseph the dreamer, and how God was always with him, even through some really awful circumstances!

Themes: Kids Church, Children's Ministry, Protection, God With Us, Bible Story

Who	Counselor	Joseph	Baker
	Henry/Harriet	Brother 1	Cup Bearer
	Marigold	Brother 2	Pharaoh
	Ivy	Ishmaelite Trader	Jacob
	Dusty	Potiphar	Benjamin
	Reed	Potiphar's Wife	

When Present day and Bible times

Wear (Props) Campers should wear appropriate clothes for camping
Bible characters can wear biblical clothing
Coat of many colors
Bottle
Teddy Bear
Silver Cup
Bags for food
Setting for camping- campfire, logs for sitting on or short stools, tent, lanterns etc.
Blanket

Why Genesis 37, 39-46

How The following roles can be played by the same actor as such: Brother 1, Potiphar, Baker, Brother 2, Potiphar's Wife, Cup Bearer, Ishmaelite Trader, Pharaoh, Jacob

Time Approximately 18 minutes

The Counselor, Marigold, Ivy, Dusty and Reed sit huddled around a campfire. Dusty sits next to Ivy and they have a shared blanket draped across their legs in which we can only see Ivy's legs. That's important for later. They all appear to be cold and trying to get warm from the heat of the fire.

Ivy: It's soooo coooooold.

Dusty: I can't feel my nose. Is my nose still on my face?

Marigold: Are we really going to sleep outside in *this*?

Counselor: It's not *that* cold.

Dusty: I can't move my legs! I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS!!

Ivy: Dusty! Calm down! *(Pulling off the blanket)* See? Those are my legs.

Dusty: Oh. Phew.

Marigold: It's damp. It's dark. All those weird noises are back. And the moon isn't out. It's so dark tonight.

Counselor: I imagine this is kind of what it looked and felt like for Joseph when he was in prison all those years.

Reed: Who's Joseph?

Ivy: And why was he in prison?

Dusty: Did he kill someone?

Counselor: No.

Reed: Did he steal?

Counselor: No.

Ivy: Did he cheat?

Counselor: No.

Marigold: Did he kidnap the president and ransom him for a hundred billion dollars then take the money and escape to South America and buy a small island and bury the money in the sand and then made up a new criminal name, like the Night Nuisance and begin a spree of ice cream theft up and down the countryside? *(Pause as she waits for a response. They all look at her strangely.)* No?

Counselor: No. In fact...he didn't do anything that warranted him going to prison. Hmmm. Where should I start?

Joseph enters in a fancy colorful coat.

Counselor: Joseph was his Dad's favorite son.

Joseph: *(To the audience)* Dad totally likes me best.

*Enter the **Brothers**.*

Counselor: But almost needless to say, this didn't make Joseph's other brothers very happy. In fact...they really hated Joseph.

Brother 1: Ugh! Here comes Joseph again!

Brother 2: And he's wearing that fancy, totally awesome coat that I wanted but Dad bought it for *him*!

Brother 2: He always gets whatever he wants. Dad spoils him rotten.

Brother 1: He just better not tell us another one of his ridiculous dreams again.

Reed: Dreams?

Counselor: Yeah. Joseph had these dreams that God gave him. The dreams basically said that one day Joseph's brothers would all bow down to Joseph because Joseph would one day be in a very big and important role later in life.

Ivy: I bet that made his brothers even more mad.

Brother 1: It sure did! *(To his **Brothers**)* I tell you what...when Joseph gets here let's just get rid of him once and for all...whatdya think?

Brother 2: Um...ok.

Joseph: *(Approaching)* Hey brothers! You are *not* going to guess what I dreamed about last night!

Brother 1: Grab him!

Joseph: Hey! What's going on?! That's my coat!

Brother 2: *(Taking the coat off **Joseph**) It's my coat now! (Putting it on he models it for his brothers a little bit) It looks pretty good on me, doesn't it?*

*Everyone ad libs general approval at how it looks. Even **Joseph** who then says...*

Joseph: Hey! Wait a minute! That's mine! Give it back!

Brother 2: You won't need it where you're going.

Joseph: And where am I going?

*Enter **Ishmaelite Trader**.*

Brother 1: *(Looking around he spots the **Ishmaelite Trader**) Um...um...with this guy!*

Joseph: *(Pointing to **Ishmaelite Trader**) With him?!*

Brother 1: *(Pointing to **Ishmaelite Trader**) With him.*

Ish Trader: *(Pointing to himself confused) With me?*

Brother 2: *(Pointing to **Ishmaelite Trader**) With you.*

Joseph: *(Pointing to his **Brothers**) With you?*

Ish Trader: *(Pointing to himself confidently) With me.*

Brothers: *(Pointing to **Ishmaelite Trader**) With him.*

Joseph: *(Pointing to **Ishmaelite Trader**) Oh...with him. (Pause) But where?*

Brother 1: *(Speaking to **Ishmaelite Trader**) Where are you headed?*

Joseph: *(Wishful thinking out loud to himself) Please say home please say home please say home...*

Ish Trader: *(To **Brother 1**) Egypt.*

Brother 1: *(To **Ishmaelite Trader**) Egypt?*

Ish Trader: *(To **Brother 1**) Egypt.*

Brother 2: *(To **Joseph**) Egypt.*

Joseph: *(To **Ishmaelite Trader**) Egypt?*

Ish Trader: (To **Joseph**) Egypt.

Brothers: (To **Joseph**) Egypt.

Joseph: Oh...Egypt. Egypt?! (Pause) But why?

*Exit **Ishmaelite Trader** "tying" **Joseph's** hands behind his back and pushing him out as the **Brothers** admire the new coat and exit following them.*

Counselor: The brothers were so sick of Joseph they sold him as a slave to this passing traveler who was on his way to Egypt.

Marigold: That's terrible!

Counselor: But...God was *with* Joseph.

Dusty: If God was *with* Joseph, then why didn't he stop his brothers from selling him to become a slave in Egypt?

Counselor: Well, think about it. His brothers *could have* decided to kill Joseph but they didn't. And even though Joseph wasn't exactly where he wanted to be...on his way to become a slave in Egypt...he was alive, and remember those dreams of his? God had big plans for Joseph.

Ivy: So what happened next? Did he escape and go back home to his dad and get his fancy coat back?

*Enter **Joseph** still being held by the **Ishmaelite Trader** with his hands behind his back. Also enter **Potiphar** and **Potiphar's Wife**.*

Potiphar: I need a slave to help clean my house. (Looking at **Joseph**) How about this one? He looks strong.

Pot Wife: And cute!

***Potiphar** gives his wife a look. She looks away then winks at **Joseph** who makes a confused grimacing face and looks away.*

Potiphar: I'll take him.

***Potiphar** hands the **Ishmaelite Trader** a small sac of money and the **Ishmaelite Trader** exit. **Potiphar** leads **Joseph** to the side and "unties" him. **Potiphar's Wife** sits upstage watching.*

Counselor: A man named Potiphar bought Joseph to be a slave in his house. Joseph was a good slave.

Potiphar shakes **Joseph's** hand and exits.

Counselor: He was strong, reliable and trustworthy.

Pot Wife: And cute!

Counselor: And Potiphar's wife thought he was *pretty special* too.

Pot Wife: Pretty special? He's soooooo cute!

Counselor: Joseph tried to stay away from Potiphar's wife, but she just wouldn't leave him alone.

Pot Wife: Leave him alone? How can I leave him alone? He's soooo cute!

Potiphar's Wife starts chasing **Joseph** around the stage saying "So cute! So cute! So cute!" over and over again. **Joseph** continues to avoid her and run from her until finally she gets so upset she starts to cry. **Potiphar** enters.

Potiphar: (Going to her to comfort her) Wife, what's wrong?

Pot Wife: (Still "crying" but intelligible) It's Joseph! He...He...he keeps trying to hug me!

Pot & Joseph: WHAAT?!?!?

Pot Wife: Yes! He keeps trying to hug me! And kiss me! He won't stop chasing me around the room! (She "cries" again)

Potiphar: Joseph! How dare you! Off to prison you go!

Wife&Joseph: WHAAT?!?!?!

Joseph: But, I didn't do it!

Pot Wife: But, he's so cute.

Exit **Potiphar's Wife**, **Potiphar** "tying" **Joseph's** hands behind his back and pushing **Joseph** into "prison" downstage.

Counselor: Joseph was thrown into prison and lived there for *many* years.

Reed: Years?!

Marigold: But he didn't do anything wrong!

Ivy: All this bad stuff keeps happening to Joseph, and he seems like such a good guy! It seems unfair!

Counselor: But even locked up in jail God was *with* Joseph.

Ivy: How was God with Joseph in prison for years and years?

Counselor: Well, remember how Joseph used to have all those crazy dreams?

They nod and general ad lib that they remember.

Counselor: Well, that gift of being able to tell what a dream meant was going to come in handy in about...3...2...1...

*Enter **Baker** and **Cup Bearer** who have just been "thrown" into prison from offstage. They enter and land with an "umph" and ad lib.*

Baker: *(Shouting offstage once he "lands")* You're going to hear from my lawyer, pal!

Cup Bearer: *(Getting up and shaking off)* Ouchie. I hurt my tushy. *(Looking around)* This is a far cry from palace accommodations.

Joseph: *(Reaching out to shake their hands. The **Cup Bearer** first, who shakes his hand)* I'm Joseph. Nice to meet you.

Cup Bearer: *(Shaking hands)* I'm Pharaoh's cup bearer.

*Joseph reaches out to the **Baker** to shake his hand but the **Baker** refuses.*

Cup Bearer: *(To the **Baker**)* Might as well make nice. Who knows how long Pharaoh will keep us locked up here. *(To **Joseph**)* This is Pharaoh's baker.

*Joseph waves hello from a distance which the **Baker** turns his nose to.*

Joseph, Cup Bearer and Baker lay down to sleep.

Dusty: Did these two guys help him escape or something? Is that how he gets out?

Counselor: No. Not exactly.

Marigold: Then how does he get out? He does get out, doesn't he?

Baker: *(Suddenly sitting up and screaming at the top of his lungs. He's had a bad dream) Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!! (He pants hard because he's so startled awake from his dream)*

Joseph and Cup Bearer are startled up and awake too.

Cup Bearer: *(To Baker)* What is it?! What's wrong?!

Baker: I just had a horrible dream! It scared me so much! There was bread. And birds and more bread and more birds and birds pecking me and squawking and more birds -!

Joseph: *(Comforting Baker)* Calm down. You're awake now. There aren't any birds in here.

Cup Bearer: *(Remembering)* I had a strange dream too! No birds or anything like that, but Pharaoh was there and I was giving him a glass of his favorite drink and he was smiling at me like he used to.

Joseph: Tell me more about your dreams. I may be able to help you understand what they mean.

Joseph, Cup Bearer and Baker pantomime together as each quickly tells them their dream. **Joseph** nods and responds to them as he listens earnestly.

Counselor: See, God helped Joseph see the meaning in dreams and he was able to listen to their dreams and tell them what they meant.

Cup Bearer: So, what does it mean?

Joseph: *(To Cup Bearer)* Good news! Pharaoh isn't going to be mad at you much longer. In three days he'll send for you and give you your old job back.

Cup Bearer: That's awesome!

Baker: What about me? What does my dream mean? Is Pharaoh going to send for me too? Do I get my job back? A promotion? A raise?!

Joseph: *(Hesitant)* Um, well...no. In three days Pharaoh is *definitely* going send for you. But, no job. No raise. Definitely no promotion. Uh...he's going to have you killed. *(Very quickly)* Who's up for Yahtzee?

Baker: What?! I don't believe you. This is ridiculous. These dreams don't mean a thing. *(Lays down to go back to sleep)*

Joseph and **Cup Bearer** lay down to sleep too.

Counselor: Three days later Pharaoh sent for his Cup Bearer and Baker.

Joseph: (To the **Cup Bearer**) Hey, buddy. Don't forget about me down here. Tell Pharaoh about me and how I helped you.

Exit **Cup Bearer** who gives **Joseph** a thumbs up followed by the **Baker** who just gives **Joseph** a nasty look.

Counselor: Pharaoh gave the Cup Bearer his old job back. Just as Joseph said he would.

Reed: And the baker?

Counselor: Well...

Baker: (Offstage) Ahhhhhhhh!!!

Counselor: Things happened for him the way Joseph said they would too.

Ivy: Now does Joseph get out of prison?

Enter **Pharaoh** followed by the **Cup Bearer**. **Pharaoh** is pacing about nervously holding a teddy bear. **Cup Bearer** holds a baby bottle behind his back.

Counselor: Well, it turns out Pharaoh was having some pretty bad dreams too. But no one seemed to be able to tell him what they meant.

Pharaoh: Can *nobody* tell me what these cotton-pickin' dreams mean?! (He reaches to the **Cup Bearer** who hands him the bottle and he begins to drink out of it)

Cup Bearer: Um...sir?

Pharaoh: (Curtly) What?! (Drinks bottle again)

Cup Bearer: Um, remember that time you had me thrown in prison for a while? (Quickly changing his tactic) Scratch that...don't remember that. Just know that I met this guy who when I told him about a mysterious dream / had he told me exactly what it meant and he was right! He's probably still in prison here in Egypt. Maybe we should go get him.

Pharaoh: Bring him to me!

Enter **Joseph**. **Pharaoh** throws his teddy and bottle to the **Cup Bearer** who tucks them behind his back. Pantomime **Pharaoh** telling **Joseph** dreams)

Counselor: So Joseph was taken out of prison and brought before Pharaoh. Pharaoh told Joseph his mysterious dreams. It involved a bunch of cows and some wheat and other stuff like that and basically meant that seven years of great abundant harvest were coming Egypt's way followed by seven years of the worst famine and drought they had ever seen.

Pharaoh: You've done it! (Arm around **Joseph**) You told me what my dreams meant!

Joseph: Actually, *God* told me what they meant and I told you. That's kind of how it works. He helps me. I help you. Badda bing badda boom.

Pharaoh: I need a guy just like you around to help me in Egypt. I'm giving you a job! You will be Governor over all of Egypt! How's that sound?

Joseph: Better than prison.

Exit **Pharaoh** and **Cup Bearer** who gives **Joseph** a "thumb's up" as he goes.

Counselor: So Joseph, once a slave, then a prisoner, was now Governor over all of Egypt. He helped the people collect and store enough food for the coming famine that would sweep the land near and far.

Marigold: I think it's very clear that God was with Joseph *now*.

Dusty: Yeah, but what about his family back home? His brothers? His Dad?

Enter **Brother 1**, **Brother 2** and **Jacob** who stand away from **Joseph** downstage as though in another land.

Counselor: I'm glad you asked.

Brother 1: I'm soooooo hungry.

Brother 2: (*Dramatically*) This famine is killing me. (*Matter of factly*) No really. It's *literally* killing me.

Jacob: My sons, there is nothing to eat here, but in Egypt there is plenty. I need you to go to Egypt and bring us back some food to eat.

Counselor: So off the brothers went to Egypt to get some food to feed their hungry bellies and starving families back home. And *who* do you think they had to ask for the food?

Reed: Who?

*The **Brothers** enter and approach **Joseph** and bow down on their knees before him.*

Counselor: Joseph! They had to beg Joseph, their brother, whom they had sold into slavery all those years ago, for food so they could live.

Ivy: Didn't they recognize that Joseph was their brother?

Counselor: No. It had been many, many, *many* years since they had seen Joseph. They thought he was probably long gone by now. *But* Joseph recognized *them*! And he wanted to figure out if his brothers were still the mean, selfish bullies they were all those years ago *or* if they had changed for the better.

Joseph: You are spies! You've come here to try and steal our food and destroy our country!

Brother 1: *(Standing)* No your excellency...your highness, your...uh...

Brother 2: *(Stopping his brother's babbling)* We are just hungry travelers who have come to buy food for our father and brother and the rest of our families back home.

Joseph: *(Excitedly)* Dad's still alive?! *(Then remembering to be more stern)* You say you're buying food for you and your father and other brother?

Brother 1: Yes. Our dad is too old to travel and he would never let our youngest brother, Benjamin, travel after what happened to...

Brother 2: You see, we had another brother who...uh...well...

Brother 1: He's not with us anymore and Dad would surely die if something happened to his youngest son, our brother Benjamin.

Joseph: Well, you are going to prove you are *not* spies by bringing your brother Benjamin to me. Then I'll believe your story. And just to make sure you return, one of you has to stay in prison until the other brothers come back.

*The **Brothers** look at each other horrified for a moment then realize they have no choice and are resigned to the plan.*

Brother 1: I'll stay. (To **Brother 2**) Go home. Tell Dad what has happened. Bring Benji.

Brother 2 starts to exit.

Brother 1: (Shouting after him) And brother...(a little scared) hurry!

*Exit **Brother 2** leaving **Brother 1** who is placed in prison by moving downstage and having a seat. **Joseph** stands nearby.*

Marigold: And did they come back? Did they finally recognize Joseph? Were they all one big happy family again?

*Enter **Brother 2** and **Benjamin** and **Brother 1** comes out of prison, greeting them happy to see them and joins them bowing down again before **Joseph**.*

Counselor: It was hard to convince their father to let Benjamin go, but finally he did.

Brother 2: (To **Joseph** still on his knees) Your royalness, uh...I mean...your majesty...uh...that is...

Brother 1: (Still on knees) Your holiness high and mighty man of...uh, well...um...

Benjamin: (Standing up) I'm Benjamin. The youngest son of my father.

*Begin a pantomime of everything the **Counselor** narrates in the following speech. They sit and pretend to eat and are smiling and happy together.*

Counselor: Joseph was so happy to see his youngest brother again. He threw a great banquet for his brothers. They ate together and laughed together but they still didn't recognize their brother Joseph.

Marigold: Now did Joseph finally tell them who he was?

*Pantomime **Joseph** giving food bags and hiding the cup in **Benjamin's** food bag of which all the **Brothers** and **Benjamin** are unaware.*

Counselor: When the feast was over Joseph had *one more test* to see if his brothers were still the mean selfish men they had been all those years ago when they sold him off as a slave. He gave his brothers lots of food to take home with them to their father and the rest of the family, but in Benjamin's bag of food he hid a very expensive, very special silver cup that belonged to him. Then when the brothers were leaving and on their way back home...

The **Brothers** and **Benjamin** are walking away.

Joseph: Stop!!! Stop right this instant! One of you has stolen my favorite silver cup!

Brother 2: No! Your kingship...uh, I mean...your sirness, uh...I mean....

Brother 1: We would never dare to steal from you, your greatness! Search us! And you will find no cup! And if you do, you can throw the person who stole the cup into your prison to rot there for the rest of their life!

Joseph goes to **Brother 1's** bag...no cup...then **Brother 2's** bag, finding nothing again, then finally to **Benjamin's**. He reaches dramatically into the bag, fishes around and pulls out the missing silver cup!

All gasp!

All: (Except Benjamin and Counselor) Benjamin!

Joseph: Benjamin! You stole my favorite silver cup! You will rot in my prison for the rest of your life for what you have done!

Brother 1: (Very, very dramatically) Noooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!! (Falling to his knees before **Joseph**, groveling) No, please, your lordy highnessship, no...you can't! Take me instead!

Brother 2: (Falling on his knees wrapping his arms around **Joseph's** legs) Anyone but Benjamin! Your majestic king-type-person! You can't have Benji! Our father would surely die if anything happened to Benjamin! Please! Take me instead!

Counselor: Joseph could finally see that his brothers had really changed. They were no longer the mean, selfish men they had been all those years ago when they were all younger. They were willing to sacrifice their own lives for the lives of their brothers. So, he decided it was time to reveal to them who he really was.

Joseph: Brothers! Brothers!!! Don't you recognize me?

They stop groveling for a moment and look up at **Joseph**.

Joseph: It's me! Look! Your brother, Joseph!

Brother 1: (Standing up and looking confused but realizing it's true) Joseph?!

Brother 2: *(Standing)* Could it be true?

Joseph: Guys! *(Embracing them all in one big group hug)* It's really me!

Brother 1: Are you going to have us *all* thrown in prison now for what we did to you all those years ago?

Joseph: No! No no no no no. It's water under the bridge, man! You guys wanted to hurt me but God used it to do good! I mean, look at me! I'm Governor of Egypt! Group hug!

They group hug.

Joseph: *(Remembering)* Dad! We gotta go get Dad! You guys should all move here! There's plenty of food, water, land! We could live here for like, four hundred years, easy!

Joseph remains behind with his arm around **Benjamin** as **Brothers 1** and **2** go off and get **Jacob** who then enters and limp/runs in to give **Joseph** a big hug. Another group hug then they all exit.

Ivy: God *really* was with Joseph the whole time.

Marigold: Through the good and the bad times.

Counselor: That's true.

Reed: What a great story.

Dusty: And it doesn't feel so cold out anymore.

Counselor: Well, this fire has been here with us the whole time keeping us warm and giving us light.

Marigold: Kind of like how God was with Joseph the whole time, even when things were dark and cold and scary.

Counselor: Yep. And it will feel even warmer when you're all tucked inside your cozy beds. So, off to sleep everyone!

General ad lib of "goodnights" as they head off to their separate tents. Counselor picks up the blankets and folds them laying them across the seats nicely as they go, then turns back to the fire.

Counselor: *(To God)* Help us to always know you're with us...even in the dark times. *(Exit into tent.)*