



No maximum number  
depending on adequate  
supervision



15 minutes

# Heroes: Joseph is sold by his brothers

**Aim:** To try and show the boys that jealousy of what others have is wrong

## Equipment:

- Template (Joseph's coat)
- Colouring pencils and pens

Joseph had been sent by his father to see if his brothers were all right tending the flocks at Shechem. He said, 'Please bring me back news of your brothers'. So Joseph set off from the Valley of Hebron where the family lived. However when Joseph arrived at Shechem he could not find his brothers but heard from another traveller that they had moved further up the valley with their sheep.

As Joseph walked up the valley to his brothers, they saw his beautiful multi-coloured coat in the distance and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him and tell their father that he must have been devoured by a ferocious animal. This did sometimes happen in wild country if you had nothing to protect yourself with. His brothers were very jealous of Joseph and his beautiful coat, Joseph was his father's favourite son.

However, Reuben who was the oldest pleaded with the others not to kill him – let's just throw him down this hole in the ground and leave him there – he can't get out. Reuben's intention was to come back later for Joseph and rescue him, he knew how upset his father would be if Joseph had been killed. So when Joseph approached them they grabbed hold of him and tore off his beautiful coat and threw him into the hole.

As the brothers sat down to eat their meal they saw approaching a caravan of Ishmaelites, (you will need to explain to the boys what a 'caravan' was) with their camels loaded with spices, balm and myrrh; they were on their way to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers – 'Why don't we sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites and his blood will not be on our hands.' So the brothers sold Joseph twenty shekels of silver and he was taken away to Egypt.

Reuben was very upset when he returned from the sheep and saw that Joseph had disappeared. What are we going to do? What are we going to say to our father? After thinking about this, the brothers tore up the multi-coloured robe, killed a goat and smeared its blood on the robe and took it home to their father. Jacob was devastated by the death of his favourite son and remained in mourning for the rest of his days.

The brothers, however, with the exception of Reuben were quite pleased to get rid of Joseph and they promptly forgot about him. That was a pity as they were to hear of him in the future.

Boys could colour in the picture of Joseph's famous coat using the template.