“NOT TO LOSE HOPE WHEN ALL IS DARK AROUND US”
(Children’s Story)

April 8, 2023

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**Text Reference:** Genesis 37:12-36; 39:1-41

[Optional: use felts or pictures to enhance the telling of this story.]

Have you ever felt like Joseph when he was a victim of the jealousy of his ten brothers? Joseph knew of life’s hardships from personal experience.

In his youth, Joseph had confidence. Moreover, he was his father’s pride and knew God had a special plan for his life. When Joseph’s ten older brothers could no longer deal with Joseph’s special attention, they finally conspired against him.

One day, Joseph was sent to deliver provisions to his elder brothers. When Joseph got there, his brothers forcibly removed his coat of many colors that he was wearing. They seized him and threw him in a pit. And since that was not enough for them, Joseph’s brothers decided to sell him to strangers as a slave. They were ready to let the cruel merchants abuse Joseph on their behalf.

Joseph, without any thoughtful preparation, faced a long voyage of 30 days through the desert, probably chained up and on foot. He was treated like garbage. Joseph was in despair at not seeing his father whom he loved very much.

With tears in his eyes, Joseph remembered God’s promises in favor of him without knowing if they would be fulfilled. After arriving in Egypt, Joseph was once more sold like vulgar merchandise. Everything seemed very dark to him.
Suppose you were Joseph. Would you still remain confident? Or would you lose hope in the fulfilment of God’s promises for you? Inevitably, the answer is no. It is in such manner that we can lose hope regarding the future. Joseph’s experience shows us that in spite of his suffering and an apparently dark life, he remained faithful to God. Joseph continued trusting in Him and finally he was released from prison and promoted to the prime minister of Egypt.

We have to feel somewhat fortunate that we don’t need to face the things that Joseph had to confront: he was betrayed and abandoned by his family, he was put at risk of temptations, he was punished for having done good, he was imprisoned, and he was forgotten by those that he helped. In each of these circumstances, he had a positive reaction which let him go ahead instead of moving back. He did not waste time asking himself: “Why?” His only question was: “What should I do now?” Everybody who met Joseph noticed that God was with him wherever he would go and whatever he would do.

When faced with disagreeable circumstances, let’s remember that the Lord is with us. There is nothing better than His presence to throw light over us in a depressing situation.

David recommends we do the following when a situation is gloomy: “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday” (Psalm 37:5-6, KJV).

God bless you!