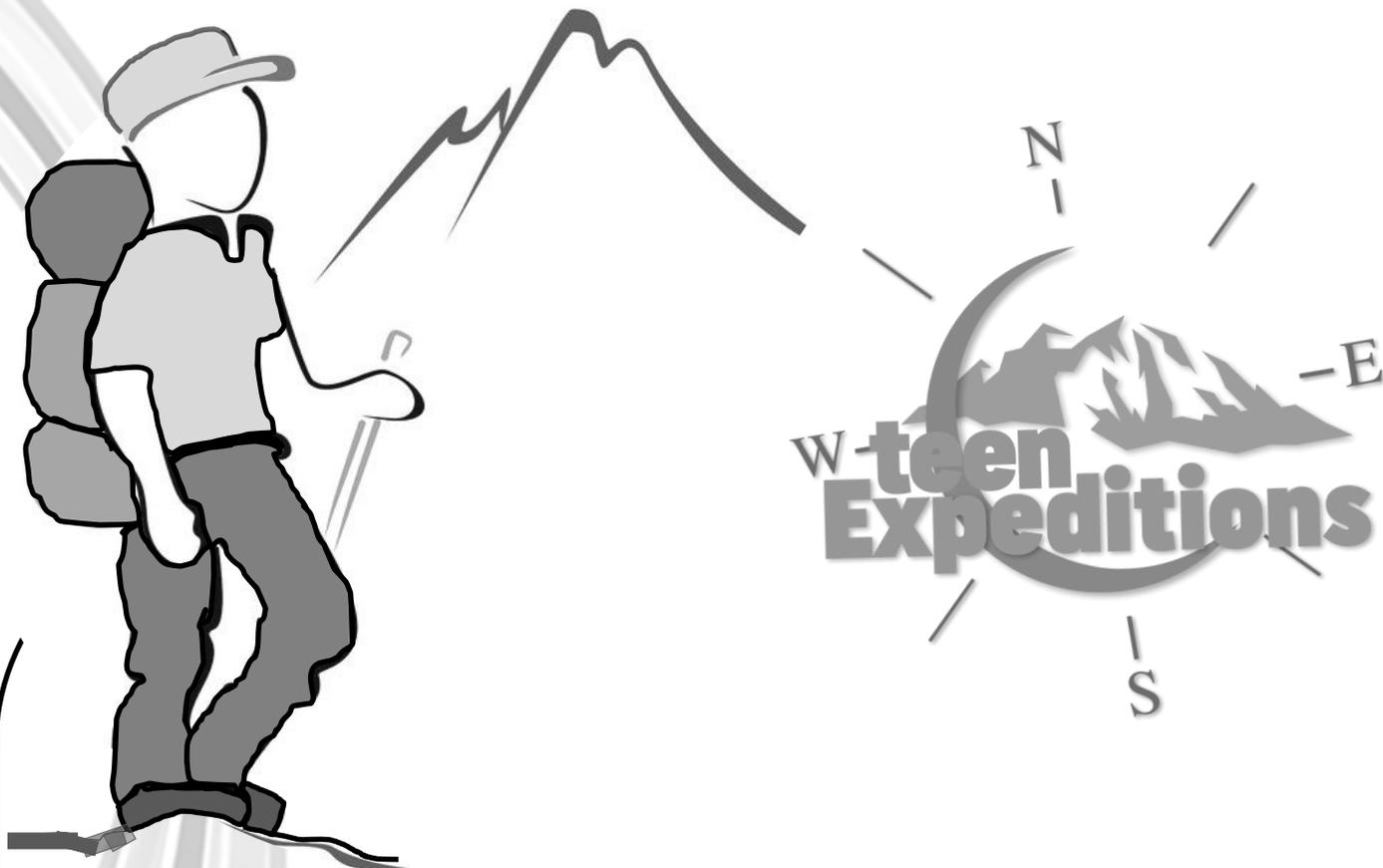


Baptist Church Planters' Youth Ministries

Walk of Faith



Sample
Booklet



It is our prayer that these lessons will:

1. Be an **affordable** resource for the church.
2. Present **God** as the central focus of each lesson.
3. Provide **attractive handouts** for the students to interact with throughout the week.
4. Give more **application tools** to the student and discussion starters for the teacher.
5. Provide **daily Scripture readings** that reinforce the lesson, encouraging Bible reading habits.
6. Be **flexible** enough to use for a Bible study, Sunday school, evangelism or discipleship.
7. Be a **guide** for anyone who wishes to share the Bible.
8. **Teach note-taking.**
9. Work well when used in conjunction with the rest of the six-year **“Teen Expedition”** series.
10. Encourage **outreach and discipleship** in your church.

As you look at these lessons you will quickly notice that Volume 1 is a study of the characters of Hebrews chapter 11. The lessons launch from Hebrews and connect to the characters of faith in the Old Testament. As students follow the lives of these people of faith, they also study the way God reveals Himself and teaches them to trust in Him. The goal is to build strong young people with vibrant, solid faith.

Whatever your need, we hope to help you grow your church.

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TEEN EXPEDITIONS - Lesson Guide



VOL. 1 HEBREWS 11

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5. Joseph

WEEK 1 *Hope*



P. 1

Passage: Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 37—50

I. Chapter 37:1—4 The Family.

When we begin to study Joseph's life, we must understand the tension that existed in the home. Joseph's father Jacob (Israel) had met a beautiful young lady named Rachel and agreed to work seven years for her hand in marriage. He was tricked into marrying her sister Leah first. He worked another seven years for Rachel. He always had a special love for her that he did not have for Leah. In Genesis 29:31 "God saw that Leah was unloved." The animosity between the sisters caused contention between the rest of the family members. Then add the strong personalities of Joseph's brothers as seen in the episode in chapter 34. Joseph's half-brothers, Simeon and Levi, killed a whole village because one man violated their sister, Dinah. Joseph was always special to Jacob (Israel) because he was the firstborn to Rachel who was his father's first love. Chapter 37:3 states that Jacob loved Joseph because he was the son of his old age, but the implication was that Jacob and Rachel thought that they may never have a child because they were getting old. Rachel died giving birth to his only true brother, Benjamin. This will be a special detail later.

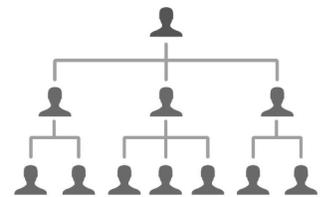
In today's terminology, we would call this a broken family. Chapter 37 begins with Joseph as a 17-year-old. We see Jacob showing favoritism to Joseph with a special coat. Some say that it was multi-colored, but all agree that it was a full-length and expensive garment. This coat was much more than something to keep him warm; it was a symbol of authority. The coat gave position and favor. Wearing this coat would be a constant reminder to the brothers of their father's special love. This would not bring the family closer. In fact, it drove the wedge a little deeper (verse 4).

In the midst of all this, God saw how Joseph was treated and chose him for a special assignment that would take courage and integrity. Joseph encountered many painful things in his life but never used his past as an excuse for laziness or disobedience in the present.

II. Verses 5—11 The Dreams.

Joseph had two dreams. These dreams must have been more vivid and memorable than the kind of dreams we have today. Little did anyone know how important these dreams were, especially Joseph. The dreams were slightly different, but both with the same message. Both the sheaves and the stars symbolized and foreshadowed an event that would take place several years later. Notice that there is only one major difference between the two dreams. In the second dream we see the addition of the parents bowing down to Joseph.

Because of the complexity of the relationships in this introduction, it may be helpful to draw or use pictures to help the students understand Israel's family tree and see that Rachel only gave birth to two sons. The rest of the brothers were from Leah or their maidservants.



You can use
Genesis 35:23-26 to make
your chart.

You may ask why God didn't appear to Joseph in front of his family and reveal His plan to everyone so they wouldn't be so mean to Joseph. What we know for sure is that God knew exactly how to help him grow spiritually closer to Him in the exact way he needed to learn it. Likewise, He wants to help us today, if we will let Him.



5. Joseph

WEEK 1 *Hope*



P. 2

While these dreams only seemed to annoy the brothers more, there was a slightly different reaction from Jacob, his father. On the surface it looks as if Jacob was mad, but the text only says that he rebuked Joseph. His father may have only been trying to keep Joseph from being too bold or to make a public rebuke for the brothers' sake. There is no doubt that Jacob would have known the friction between Joseph and the brothers. By rebuking Joseph in front of his brothers, it would have been a diplomatic way of bringing some closure to the conversation. Verse 11 tells that the brothers were jealous, but the father kept these sayings in mind. Jacob had also had dreams from God in his past, and he knew the power and significance of them (Genesis 28:12; 31:11). Joseph's dreams would serve as a promise from God for Joseph to remember in the hard years ahead.

Next week we will look at those difficult years Joseph would have, but today we will jump 23 years to the fulfillment of these dreams.

III. Genesis 42 The Provision of God.

The first dream came true when the brothers came to buy grain because there was a severe famine.

Joseph recognized the brothers, but they did not recognize Joseph. The brothers were old enough the last time he had seen them to have not changed much. Joseph, on the other hand, had been young and was now a man who had seen much grief and experiences. Above all that, he would have been wearing Egyptian clothes of authority and been speaking a different language. All of these factors helped Joseph hide his identity.

Read chapter 43 and 45:1—7. Maybe have the students read it out loud.

Note: (Encourage the students to read the entire account this next week. When the students read the rest of this account, have them look for clues about the special relationship between Joseph and Benjamin, his true brother born to the same mother.)

At some point in the last 23 years, Joseph had come to trust the plan of God. He stated that all he had been through (even being sold into slavery by his brothers) was all a part of getting him in a position to help them now. Joseph saw the bigger picture and tried to explain it to his brothers who were still in shock that it was him.

As we finish the book of Genesis, we continue to see a special attachment between Joseph and his father. God used Joseph to save his family but even more important the future nation of Israel. God had made a promise to Abraham and Jacob, who was renamed "Israel." God always keeps His word. Ultimately, God would rescue His people Israel out of Egypt through His servant Moses and the ten plagues.

Discuss some promises God has made to us in this time, and discuss the Hope that we have because of them.

Discussion:

How was life different back then? The primary form of shelter in ancient Egypt was houses made of adobe, which are simply bricks made of sun-dried mud. The windows and doors of adobes were covered with mats to keep flies and other insects out, and the homes had flat roofs so that in the summer time people could sleep on the tops of them.

Houses were built around courtyards, and all the cooking was done outside in the courtyard. The main form of travel in ancient Egypt was by boat.

The main source of protein was fish when it was caught. Wheat was a staple food. Most peasants survived by a combination of wheat and vegetables. Because there was little grazing lands, meat was more expensive and difficult to come by.

Children were also an important part of the family unit. They were considered to be a **blessing** from the gods, especially in noble and royal families. This would explain why the pharaoh was so pleased to see Joseph's family come and live in Goshen. Family was and is important.



5. Joseph

WEEK 2 *Contentment*



P. 1

I. Genesis 37 Joseph's unexpected events.

Genesis 37: From Father's Favorite to Brothers' Betrayal

We see in verse 2 of this chapter that Joseph would pasture the flock with his brothers, but after Israel gave Joseph a coat of authority and he had his dreams, things changed. This time the brothers went to work without Joseph. In verse 13 we see that his father, Israel, sent him to check on his brothers. This sounds like something a foreman would do. Joseph was not going to work with them any longer; he was only reporting *about* them. These three factors could have been big contributors to the events coming next.

1. Jacob, his father, showing favoritism to Joseph would have given cause for jealousy in the brothers.
2. Joseph having leadership given to him when he was not the oldest would have seemed unfair to the firstborn in this culture.
3. God giving Joseph two dreams that depicted the family bowing to him made the brothers hate him more. The "last straw" so to speak.

DISCUSSION

There is a clue here that Israel did not trust the boys for some reason or possibly that they were taking too long to get back. At the very least we know that Simeon and Levi were fairly dangerous and rough guys. And from what happened next, we see that all of them were not to be messed with.

Another clue that they may not be trustworthy is that Joseph journeyed to Shechem and did not find his brothers where they should be. Joseph found them in the corrupt town of Dothan. It is interesting that the brothers saw Joseph coming from afar off. Is it possible that they were keeping a watchful eye out because they were doing something wrong? (verse 18)

Application: If you have to have a lookout to make sure that the "coast is clear," then you know that you are doing something that you shouldn't. The next time you catch yourself looking over your shoulder to see if anyone is watching what you are about to do, know that God is always watching, and it is He and He alone that we should be trying to honor. "Be sure that your sin will find you out."

The brothers were rough with Joseph. Plan number one was to get rid of Joseph by putting him to death (Genesis 37:18—24).

Reuben, Jacob's first son, stepped up and took the lead on Joseph's behalf. He came up with plan number two: throw Joseph into a pit. Ironically, Reuben was the one who should have been the most offended by Joseph, because Reuben should have been the father's favored one. Verses 29—30 tell us that he felt responsible for Joseph's safety and was going to rescue him from the others later.

Ask the students if they have ever felt left out or mistreated by a group of people.

Can you imagine having so many brothers like Joseph? And having most of them hate you so much that they can't even talk nice to you or about you? Worse yet, in those days you didn't travel much, meaning that there were few occasions that Joseph could have separated himself from them. Every day was living torture.

Ask your students how this situation would have been different if the whole family had been loving, compassionate, supportive and forgiving like we know God expects us to be. Sin has a way of making us selfish and bitter.

If they had been nice, they all would have rejoiced at God's revelation to Joseph. In fact, if the brothers had been nice, God may have chosen another way to show them the future.

God, in His perfect way, gave Joseph some hope to hang on to as he went through the next few years of trials. Like Joseph, we can trust God to do right no matter how terrible or uncomfortable we feel.

Our main responsibility is to trust and obey God every day.



5. Joseph

WEEK 2 Contentment



P. 2

But Reuben was not present when the rest of the brothers put plan three into action and sold Joseph to the Midianite traders (verses 29—30). When Reuben rent his clothes, it was a sign of mourning or grief. There was no way Reuben could have known that this was all a part of God's plan.

Application: We can be sure that God sees and knows everything we are going through, good or bad, every moment. Humanly speaking, when tragedy strikes, it may be hard to understand how this could turn out good. We must trust that God is not taken by surprise by anything and that He will make all things right.

The brothers banded together and concocted a lie for their dad. Making it look like they had nothing to do with it was a bold lie (verses 31—36).

Application: There are a few ways that sin tempts us to deal with guilt. 1. Pass the blame like Adam did to Eve. 2. Cover it up like Cain did with Abel. Or 3. Just plain lie. The Bible tells that our sin will always find us out. We cannot hide from the eyes of God. The right way to deal with any sin is to admit it and confess it.

At this point, Jacob did not know the truth about Joseph, but we do. Joseph was alive and a slave because of his brothers.

VI. Genesis 39 Joseph passed the tests.

DISCUSSION

Skip to chapter 39. Even when we think we have everything taken from us, all we really need is God. Read verses 1—6. The Lord was with Joseph and blessed everything he touched.

Verses 7—20 describe an event where Joseph was falsely accused and convicted, but he passed the test. He ran from evil and did not sin. The Bible states that choosing to sin is short-sighted (2 Peter 1:9). Remember, God had given Joseph dreams to hold onto as promise for the future. Joseph accepted the hardship, the unknown and the seemingly impossible circumstances in light of an awesome God Who can do anything.

Verse 21 Joseph went to jail, and immediately God was with him and gave him favor in the eyes of the jailer. Joseph was soon in charge without supervision and whatever he did God prospered.

Application: Just like Joseph, our lives are not about us. Life is about God and following His plan. Our life is not about our comfort, our dreams, or our desires. It is about trusting His plan, His methods and His love. When we are convinced He knows best, seek Him and follow His lead, we prosper.

God's plans include helping us find true satisfaction that this world cannot give. Chapters 40—41 show why God brought Joseph there. The path God uses to get us where He wants us is always the best.

Do you think that Joseph spent all of his time moping around because of his circumstances? What clues are there that Joseph was not bitter?

1. Potiphar would not have bought a slave who was acting discontent.
2. The Lord blessed him, so what he did prospered. That means he was active and not depressed.
3. He was promoted to overseer. That does not happen unless you are making the best of your talents. Joseph was a natural leader.
4. Joseph was trusted so much that he was put in charge and was not checked on. Joseph wasn't plotting a plan to escape when the master wasn't looking.

As you read these passages, look for other times that Joseph could have shut down, given up or run but did not.



Teacher Journey Log

Lesson # 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
BEFORE CLASS	Prayed for lesson preparation																
	Prayed for students by name																
	Prayed for my example in class																
	Prayed for other leaders																
	Prepared creative illustrations																
	Set up before students arrived																
INTRODUCTION	Greeted everyone																
	Review last week (lesson and verse)																
	Attention-getting introduction																
	Facilitated note-taking																
PRESENT CONTENT	Prayer and Bible reading																
	Show them who God IS																
	Reviewed memory verse																
	Fostered discussion																
APPLICATION	Reviewed main lesson points																
	Encouraged daily Bible reading																
	Encouraged Bible memory																
	Application questions & answers																
BEYOND CLASS TIME	Encouraged projects																
	Encouraged church attendance																
	Contacts (card, visit, text, Facebook)																



Student Journey Log

STUDENT'S NAME BIRTHDAY GRADE

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE # PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE #

		Lesson #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Activities  Attendance	Dates  Sunday School Church Youth time																			
	Note-Taking 																			
	HIKING DEEPER Daily Scripture Reading 																			
Evidence of Prayer and Bible Study																				
 Memory Verses																				
Home & Church Projects 																				
Outreach to Friends																				

Vol. 1 Does he or she qualify for the Summit Award? _____



Summit Award

Minimum Requirements:

complete journal, Scripture memory, faithful attendance to meetings and church, outreach services, projects, and any extra church requirements.

This award is made of solid walnut.

When complete it stands almost 21 inches tall and the base is 11 inches wide.

Completed Summit Award

Six levels—each year completed earns a section of the plaque and achievement level title certificate.

First year	Pioneer level
Second year	Sojourner level
Third year	Explorer level
Fourth year	Journeyman level
Fifth year	Mountaineer level
Sixth year	Summit level



Journey Journal

The student book is designed to accompany the Teen Expeditions' teacher book. These lessons study Hebrews chapter 11, helping the students apply the Biblical truths to their everyday lives in class and throughout the week.

This is Volume 1 in a six-volume set. Each volume has between 30-34 lessons.

THREE REASONS TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

1. **Review:** Have you ever asked your children on the way home from church, "What did you learn today?" and their response was little or minimal? This tool can help to remind them of what they studied and provide a way for you to have a discussion with them about what they looked at in God's Word.
2. **Retention:** As a teacher you know that it is a risky thing to send a book home with a student for fear that they will not bring it back the next week to continue "in class progress." This paper is directly linked with one lesson and does not need to be returned. It encourages the student to interact with the Truth of each Biblical account all week long. Repetition and meditation on what they learned in class is reinforced when they interact with it and learn to live its principles throughout their week.
3. **Application:** All of us want our students to do more than simply know the Truth. We desire that they live and obey the Truth. This guide helps the student to have daily Bible reading, asks questions to encourage personal application and guides their thoughts toward who God is.



THERE ARE EIGHT MAJOR COMPONENTS:

1. **Attention-getting cover:** Today's youth are accustomed to high quality visuals.
2. **A place to take notes from the lesson:** Note-taking is a great skill to teach early. By adding this element, you communicate that the Bible is important, and it gives them something to review later on their own.
3. **Daily Scripture readings:** The daily readings are either a breakdown of the Biblical account of the lesson into readable sections or Scripture that relates to the spiritual Truths from the lesson.
4. **Scripture segment:** If the family does not read the Bible together yet, this is an easy way to encourage it.
5. **Questions:** These are designed to help the students evaluate their actions and attitudes compared to Biblical Truths.
6. **Memory Verses:** Scripture verses must be stored in young minds so they can recall them as a guide for their lives and worship.
7. **Projects:** These are designed to help students interact with the lesson, their family, and their church people.
8. **God and man lessons:** It is imperative that we teach who God is and what He has done. The characters in the Bible and the accounts from their lives lead us to a deeper understanding of our LORD.

To track the effectiveness and the progress of the students, use the Student Journey Log.



What does the Bible say?

Genesis 37:23-32

Use this space to jot down what stands out to you from the reading. What questions come to mind?



What does it mean?

Joseph's brothers didn't like him. They were a rough bunch of men. They had treated him poorly for 17 years and then sold him into slavery. Joseph endured many more hardships including being falsely accused and being sent to prison. But God was with him. God turned the horrible things in his life into great blessings. At age 30 Joseph became second in command over Egypt. Only God could do something like this. God can and wants to help you with your life, too. He can do anything.

Self-Examination



Do you ever feel like life isn't fair?

Do you ever do the right thing and still get in trouble?

Do you ever think that life is hard?

Joseph could have been tempted to have thoughts like these also. What we do know is that he did the right thing. He was a good example to us of patience and trusting in God.

God can use hard times in our lives to help us grow closer to Him. He wants us to rely on Him for everything. The next time you feel like things are hard, just remember Joseph and Jesus, they both experienced things that were hard and unfair, but they trusted God to help them. Jot down something you are going through that you will trust God to help you through.

Save to Memory



Genesis 50:20

Use this space to write out your memory verse





What did we learn about God?

- God gave Joseph dreams to hold onto for hope because He knew that there were hard times ahead.
- God can use the hard times to show us His mercy.
- God wants to give us peace of mind in hard times. That peace only comes when we place all our trust in Him and His plan.



What did we learn about man?

- Our families can be hard to live with sometimes.
- People can be mean sometimes.
- We need God to help us in life.
- Temptation to do the wrong thing is powerful, but God is more powerful and wants to help us do right.
- We can be patient and forgiving when we ask God to help us. These do not come naturally.

Notes & Self-Application





Project

Find a quiet place with no phones, books, computers or modern conveniences.

Read Genesis 39:19-23. Pretend that you are in jail. How would you feel? How would you be tempted to act if you were innocent. Where did Joseph get his strength and courage? Why did the Jailor like him? Pray and ask God to help you trust Him more.

DAILY BIBLE READING THOUGHTS

Day 1 Hebrews 11:22, Genesis 37

Day 2 Genesis 39

Day 3 Genesis 40

Day 4 Genesis 41

Day 5 Genesis 42-43

Day 6 Genesis 45

Day 7 Genesis 50:15-21