[Narrrator] For the next three months we are going to be telling you the story of Joseph. Joseph has a long story in the book of Genesis, the book of the bible that tells us many of the stories of beginnings. Joseph lived with his father Jacob and eleven brothers in the land that eventually became Israel. Joseph and his brothers herded sheep and goats but Joseph dreamt of so much more. If his dreams were to come true, very surprising things will have to happen, and they will. Let's see the beginning of the surprising story of Joseph.

In today's story are Joseph, and some of his brothers Ruben, Judah, and simian. There are also some people called Ishmaelites, We'll see how they fit in as our story unfolds. Let's say hello to Joseph, Rubin, Judah, Simian and the Ishnaelites.

[scene] Rubin, Judah, and Simian and other brothers are gathered together.

[Narrator] Our story starts out in the wilderness where Rubin, Judah, Simian and some of Joseph's other brothers are watching their father Jacob's sheep.

[Judah] You know, I really like it out here. I enjoy the peace and quiet, being away from all of the noise of the family back at the home cite.

[Rubin] Yes, I know that there aren't many surprising things that happen while you are following sheep around, but that's been the way that our family has lived for years.

[Judah] You know what I enjoy even more, I enjoy getting away from that little rat Joseph. He's father's favorite. He likes to get us in trouble. He tells Father everything that we do, especially if it makes us look bad. He thinks he's so smart and so important.

[Simian] Do you mean his dreams?

[Judah] Of course. He's been telling us that someday we'll be begging him for help and even bowing down to him. Even father told him to stop. I was surprised that our father got on him since he's really daddy's pet.

[Rubin] I guess that when you are a kid you have dreams, but something very surprising would have to happen for any of Joseph's dreams to come true.

[Simian] Joseph's dreams might not come true, but hearing about them all the time is still really annoying.

[Rubin] I guess you are right. He may have that nice robe that Father gave him and that might make him feel really special right now, but ultimately he's going to be a shepherd just like us. We'll see what his dreams do for him then. Yes, he'll spend his life following sheep around and remembering his dreams. The same life as us with no surprises. I'll go and check on the sheep.

[Scene] Rubin leaves.

[Judah] Who is that coming? Is that Joseph?

[Simian] Yes it is, what do you know.

[Judah] He doesn't have father to protect him. Let's do him in while we have the chance. We'll see if he can dream his way out of this.

[Scene] Joseph walks on.

[Joseph] I finally found you. Dad told me to check up on you guys.

[Judah] That's it. Let's do it, let's shut this loud mouth up once and for all

[Scene] Brothers grab Joseph, Ishmaelites come on.

[Judah] Who are you.

[Head Ishmaelite] We are Ishmaelites. We travel around buying and selling stuff.

[Judah] Like what?

[Head Ishmaelite] Horses, camels, spices, slaves, we do a little of everything.

[Judah] Wait a minute, I've got a great idea. Let's sell Joseph as a slave to these guys. Then we won't have the guilt of having done away with him and we'll make a little money on the side. Hey you, want to buy a slave?

[head Ishmaelite] Sure,

[Narrator] So Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. Joseph was surprised and afraid. Yes, he wouldn't be a shepherd after all, but what might he be. His brothers were surprised, they'd managed to get rid of their annoying brother and even make some money. But, as you will all see in the next few months God has some even bigger surprises in store for Joseph and his family.