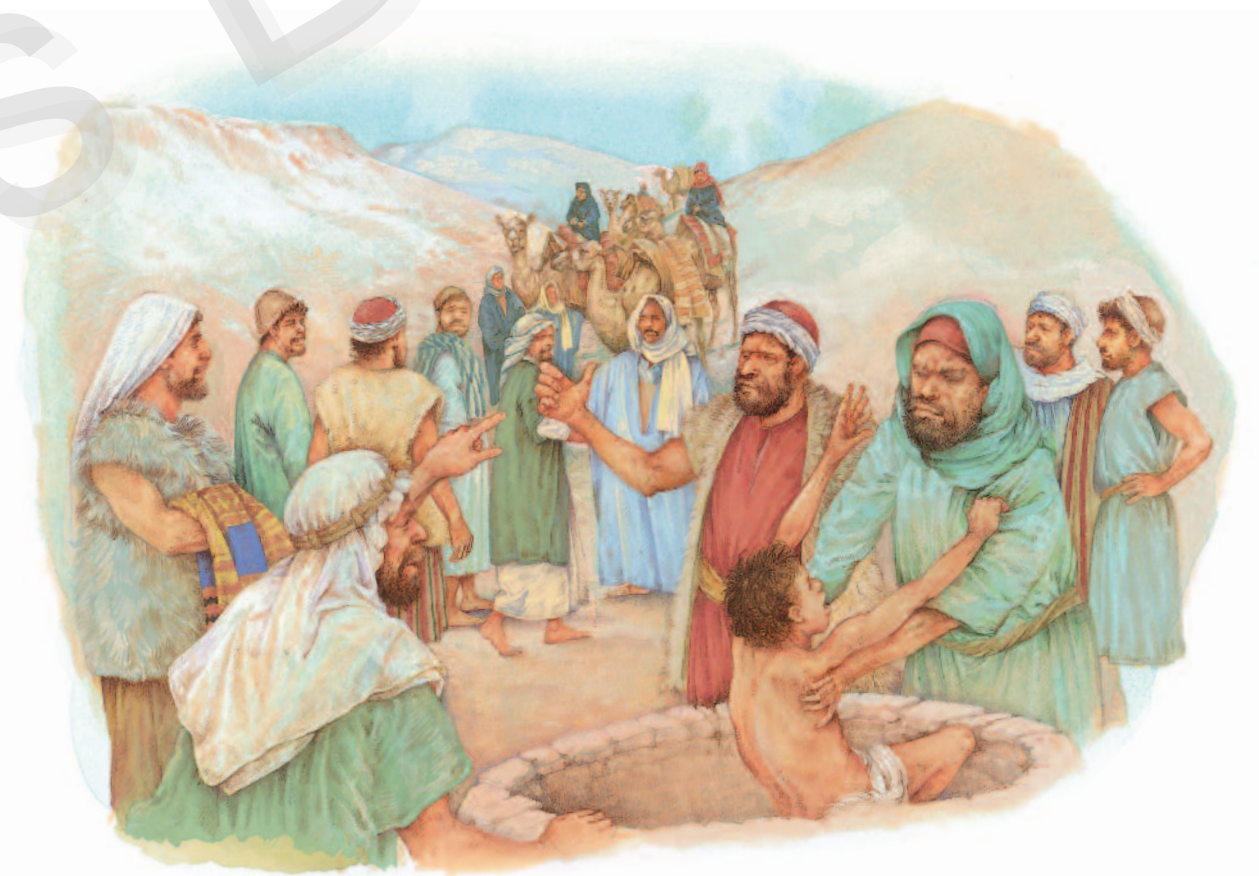


# Joseph



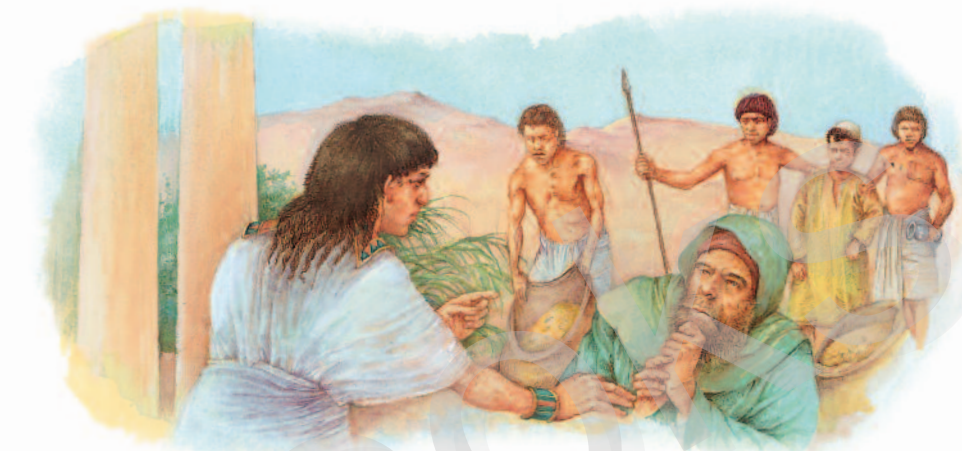
**J**ACOB had many children. His favourite son was called Joseph, son of Rachel. On Joseph's seventeenth birthday, Jacob gave him a present: a coat with long sleeves. It was woven with many different coloured threads into elaborate patterns. Joseph's eleven brothers resented Joseph because their father thought of him as his heir, even though he was not the eldest.

**O**NE DAY, Jacob asked Joseph to check on his brothers, who were herding sheep. When his brothers saw Joseph in the distance they knew he had been sent to check on them, so they plotted against him. They decided to throw him down a well where he would starve to death. But, as they lowered him down, some merchants arrived. Joseph's brothers decided to sell him to the merchants instead. Then they took his coat back to Jacob telling him that his favourite son had been killed.



# Joseph in Egypt

**J**OSEPH was taken to Egypt and sold as a slave to Potiphar, an official. Two years later, Pharaoh had a troubling dream. Seven thin cows ate seven fat ones, but they did not grow fatter. None of his advisors could tell him what the dream meant. Joseph had accurately interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants before, so Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Joseph told Pharaoh that his dream was a warning. There would be seven years of good crops and seven years of famine. He advised Pharaoh to collect in food now so he could feed his people later.



**P**HARAOH was so impressed that he put Joseph in charge of the grain stores. Eventually, Joseph became a governor of Egypt. But, back home in Canaan, Jacob and his family were starving. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to find food. They arrived at Joseph's house but did not recognize him. Joseph sold them grain but told them to return with their youngest brother, Benjamin. When they came back, Joseph devised a plan to force Benjamin to stay in Egypt. He secretly hid a silver goblet in Benjamin's sack. When it was later "found", Joseph ordered that Benjamin be arrested. Another brother, Judah, pleaded with Joseph to release Benjamin. Joseph now saw his brothers were changed men, so he told them who he was. The brothers were overjoyed. Pharaoh told Joseph to invite his family to live in Egypt. Jacob was delighted to see his long-lost son.



# The good Samaritan

**M**OST of Jesus's ministry was spent in Galilee but He knew the time was coming when He would go up to heaven. He set out for Jerusalem. On the way, Jesus told a story about a man who had been attacked and robbed. The thieves left him badly hurt by the side of the road. A

priest and a Levite passed by, but neither helped.

Then a Samaritan saw the man. He stopped, bandaged the injuries and took the man to an inn. The Jews and Samaritans did not like each other but Jesus showed that people should care for one another despite their differences.



**W**HEN people brought their children to Jesus, the disciples tried to turn them away, fearing they would annoy Him. But Jesus stopped the disciples and bent down among the children. He blessed them and told the disciples not to prevent children from coming to Him. He said that the kingdom of heaven belonged to them. The children were able to trust in Jesus and have a simple, unquestioning faith.

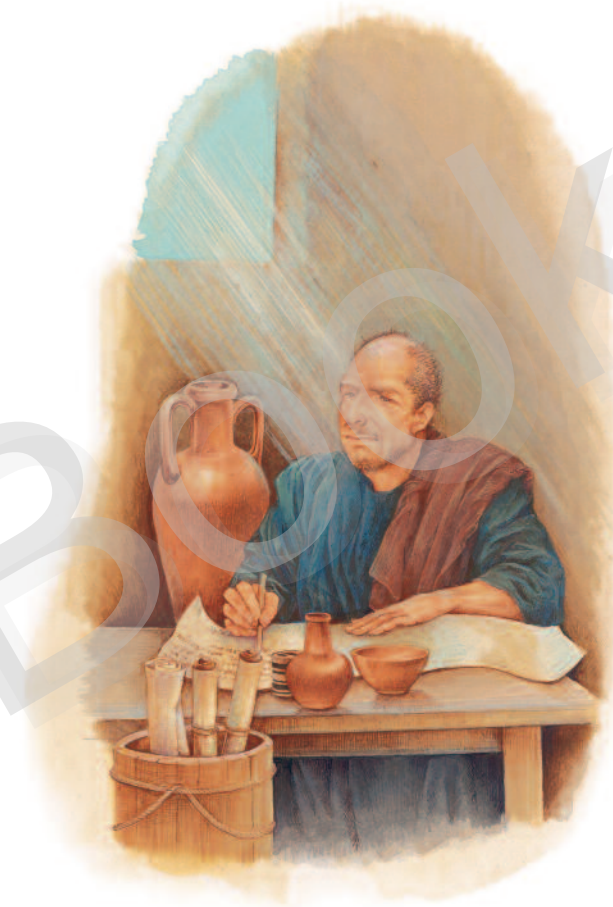
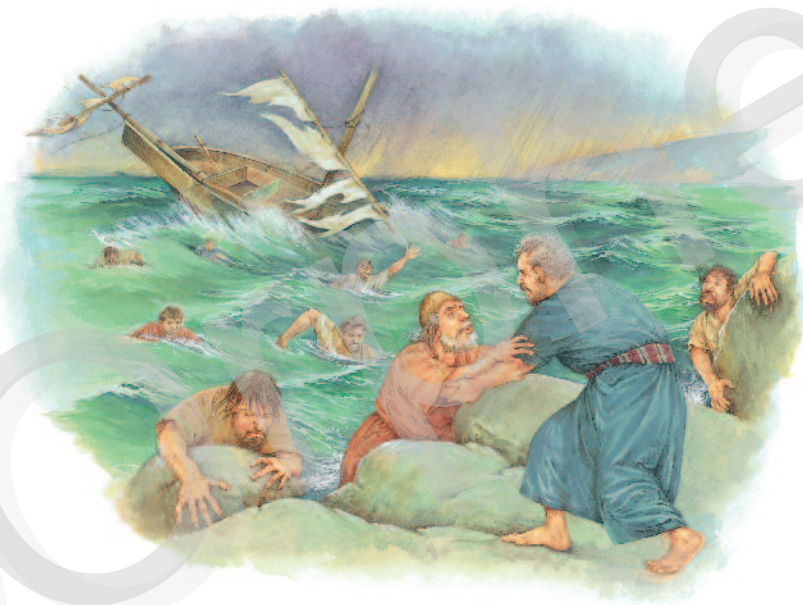
# Paul's journey to Rome



**W**HEN Paul returned to Jerusalem, he was attacked by a mob and arrested.

The mob was angry because they thought Paul was trying to encourage people to abandon the Jewish faith. After a trial in Caesarea, Paul was sent to Rome to appear before the Emperor Nero.

**O**N THE WAY to Rome, the ship carrying Paul and the other prisoners was caught in a terrible storm. Paul assured everyone on board that God would not let them come to harm. When the boat was shipwrecked near Malta, everyone escaped alive. Paul performed miracles and preached to his fellow prisoners, guards and the people of Malta.



**A**FTER his trial, Paul was held in a private house. He was under arrest but he was still allowed a certain amount of freedom. It was here that Paul wrote to the many people he had met on his travels. He encouraged them to spread the word and told them always to have faith.