

Bible Summary -Genesis 37

Getting what is needed

The family of promise is in trouble and needs to be fixed so they can be a blessing to all families. Joseph is arrogant and possibly a sociopath that is hated by his 10 older brothers, while Jacob their father makes the situation worse with his favoritism. Joseph is removed from this environment to break his arrogance and position him to save nations from starvation. The ten brothers are being eaten by hatred and they need to be broken and humbled before the one they hate. Lastly, Jacob must know that God is at work even when he doesn't see it. For us as we read this story we need to learn the balance of the Bible. Joseph was in a pit at Dothan surrounded by men who wanted to kill him, praying for God to show up and it appeared like He didn't. Years later, in the same spot of Dothan, Elisha is surrounded by men who want to kill him and he prays and chariots of fire appear! For some believers, we need to know the God of Elisha and believe He is able to send chariots and to ask for fiery chariots. For others, we need to know the God of Joseph who has a plan that is better than the one we can pray for right now and to learn to trust Him as good and generous.

Scriptures: Genesis 37, 45:26-27, 50:20; Romans 8:28; Psalm 13:1, 44:24,69:17; Job 13:24; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 13:58; Mark 6:5-6; Psalm 78:41; Hebrews 3:19, 5:7; Matthew 26:38

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. What was something in today's message that spoke to you?
2. By labeling Joseph as a certain type of person ("the lord of dreams"), his brothers justified what they did to him. Can you provide an example of a time when you identified and labeled someone by their actions to justify your dislike of them? (Like pegging someone who lies as a liar)
3. Recognizing our responsibility as parents, what are some ways we can work to treat our kids fairly (taking into account the different personalities and needs of each child)?
4. Have you ever felt like you were in a pit and God was not answering?
 - a. How did God deliver you, or what did He teach you through that time?
 - b. What can we do to keep trusting that God is still working even when we don't see any immediate answers?
5. Jacob's heart went cold for 20 years after Josephs presumed death.
 - a. Is there a time your heart went cold because of loss or difficulty?
 - b. How do you start the process of healing from a hardened heart and trust God for the outcome?

6. How is God's partnership with us different than paganism? (Partnership is where our choices and faith matter in our relationship to God. Paganism is bartering with the gods.)
7. Will this message impact the way you pray?