

The Life of Joseph.

Week #1: *Favoured Son & Hated Brother*

May 14, 2023

One of the wonderful things about the Bible is that it doesn't just talk about truth – it illustrates it! There are literally hundreds of individuals who demonstrate what happens when God's truth about life is either followed or rejected.

One of these people is the man Joseph – a real person from the pages of Genesis who embodies some of the most significant truths in the Bible. In a life filled with everything from false accusations and mistreatment to the pinnacles of wealth and power, Joseph exemplifies forgiveness, freedom from bitterness, faith & a positive attitude – all the unexpected results of God's truths being put into action. Most important, Joseph is someone who learns and holds to Rule #1, "God's in charge". When we follow this rule, letting Him lead in our relationships, life goes better.

Let's learn together the wonderful truths of this individual's life.

Questions: #1 – *Favoured Son, Hated Brother*

1. Growing up, how well did you get along with your siblings?
 - Was there blatant favoritism in your family?
 - How do you get along with your family now?

Read Genesis 25:19 – 27:46

2. How is Joseph's relationship with his brothers an example of what happens when sin is passed down from one generation to another?

Read Genesis 37

3. List the sinful attitudes & behaviours found in this chapter – there are at least half a dozen plainly in sight.
 - If Jacob's family had acted properly, how would they have resolved the issues they were dealing with and created a healthy family together?
 - If you were a family therapist, how would you go about "fixing" this family?
 - What is Joseph's sinful behaviour, if any, in this chapter?
4. Reflect upon your relationships for a moment:
 - Are you struggling with a family member, or someone else, today?
 - What can you learn from Joseph's story that will keep you from heartache and pain?
5. Is there a generational flaw in your family that you desperately want to break – something you never want your descendants to live with? Try the following steps:
 - Confess the issue to God, and the part you own in it. Take responsibility where you need to.

- Accept God's complete forgiveness in your life. You will also need to ask forgiveness of others here.
- Embrace God's strength within you as you extend forgiveness to those who have passed generational sin on to you. Some of these people may not even be alive today, but their sin remains present. You must choose to forgive them in order to move forward.
- Create new patterns of behaviour within your life as a way of creating new family dynamics. Seek accountability where you find it necessary.