

Joseph...Privileged Son and Despised Brother
Genesis 37:1-36
Outline

Introduction: Just like you, Joseph had to deal with a life of ups and downs. What kept Joseph from cracking under the pressure? What held him together when his world was blowing apart? Joseph knew God, trusted God and hoped in God with amazing tenacity and grace. You can do the same, no matter what life throws at you if you learn some powerful life lessons from Joseph.

Three benefits from studying Bible characters (*Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6*):

Three periods of Joseph's life

1. Training years – birth to seventeen, **Genesis 30:24-37:2**

2. Turbulent years – seventeen to thirty, **Genesis 37:3-41:46**

3. Triumph years – thirty to death, **Genesis 41:46-50:26**

Joseph...the privileged son of Jacob - *Genesis 37:1-4*

Joseph...despised brother - *Genesis 37:5-33*

1. Joseph's divisive dream is the catalyst. **Genesis 37:5-11**

2. Joseph is sent on a dangerous mission. **Genesis 37:12-14**

3. A murderous plot gets hatched in an out-of-the-way place. **Genesis 37:17-20**

4. A passing caravan is God's instrument of escape. **Genesis 37:25-28**

Conclusion: seven powerful life lessons for families:

1. Parents who play favorites with their children breed the emotional destruction of their family.

2. Defuse sibling rivalries by lovingly communicating the special place that each child holds in your heart.

3. Avoid the temptation toward parental passivity by confronting deception and misbehavior with loving discipline.
4. Unchecked jealousy will ruin your life and lead you to do unplanned shameful things.
5. An injustice suffered is not the end of your story when you entrust your uncertain future to God.
6. Despite how negative things look, God's plan for you includes a hope-filled future...don't miss it!
7. Claim Jeremiah 29:11-14 for yourself: ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord.***