

Sibling Rivalry on Steroids

Genesis 37 | October 11, 2020

Context: After Jacob arrives in Canaan, Genesis 37 describes how the action of his sons was used by God to lead Joseph—and ultimately all of Israel—into Egypt.

Things God overcomes to work providentially:

1. Parents' unwisely showing favoritism (1-11)
2. Wrong attitudes and actions of family members (12-24)
3. Rejection and mistreatment by others (25-36)



Can you think of anyone else sent by his father, rejected and mistreated by his brothers, and used by God to bring salvation to the ones rejecting him?

God sovereignly fulfills his plans, in spite of the actions of human beings, or...

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of other examples where someone overcame mistreatment to be used by God?
2. What are some of the wrong ways we respond when we are mistreated, and how does God's Word help us with that?
3. What is one way that can you apply God's Word from Genesis 37 to your life this week?



Questions for Parents to use with their children:

- 1. Do you enjoy dreaming? Take a moment and have each family member share one of their most memorable dreams.**
- 2. Read Genesis 37 together.**
- 3. Who are the main characters of the story?**
Answer: Joseph, Jacob, Joseph's brothers, Ishmaelite Traders
- 4. Can you name a main character that is involved but not mentioned in Genesis 37?**
Answer: God
- 5. What do you think this story has to do with God? How might it be helpful for followers of Jesus?**
Answer: It shows the beginnings of how God can fulfill His purposes in spite of very bad circumstances.
- 6. According to verses 1-11, more specifically verse 3, what might be a wise lesson for parents?**
Answer: To not show favoritism to one child
- 7. *Parents, if you feel comfortable, you might use this question: Kids, do you ever feel like your mom or dad shows favoritism? Explain.**
- 8. How does this story remind us of Jesus?**
Answer: Jesus was sent on an assignment from his father. He was rejected and mistreated by family. He ultimately was the one God used to bring reconciliation to those who mistreated him.
- 9. How can you apply this story to your lives?**