

## LESSON: GENESIS 37-39 OUR MESS GODS' SUCCESS

**OBJECTIVE:** Develop a habit of practicing for your success, regardless of life's situations, for God's Glory.

### INTRODUCTION:

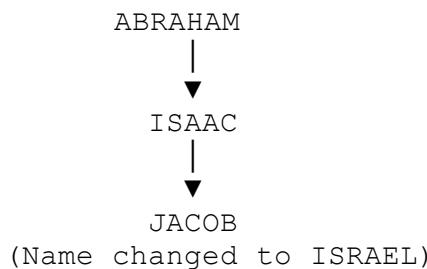
Q: Would you agree or disagree that God works through family dysfunction, moral failure, unjust suffering to accomplish His purposes?

Jacobs family is despite their descendant blessing stemming from Abraham; they are a family that experiences great dysfunction.

- Genesis 37 – Family Dysfunction, But God shows His Sovereignty
- Genesis 38 – Big Moral Failure, But God is Gracious
- Genesis 39 – Unjust Suffering, But God is Present

Despite the activities of man's lives, his failures, his lack of morality, God still weaves all things together for His purpose. **READ: Romans 8:28**

### REVIEW JACOBS FAMILY:



#### FOUR MOTHERS → TWELVE SONS

LEAH (Wife)

- 1. Reuben
- 2. Simeon
- 3. Levi\*
- 4. Judah\*
- 5. Issachar
- 6. Zebulun

RACHEL (Wife)

- 7. Joseph
  - Ephraim\*
  - Manasseh\*
- 8. Benjamin

ZILPAH (Leah's servant)

- 9. Gad
- 10. Asher

BILHAH (Rachel's servant)

- 11. Dan
- 12. Naphtali

## GENESIS 37: JOSEPH

**Q:** Does everybody have a chance at success?

### READ Genesis 37:1-4

Joseph is the younger son of Jacob. His father gifts him with a coat of many colors by his father Jacob.

**POINT:** Joseph is favored. To be successful, you must accept the fact that God has favored you. What are you favored with:

1. Natural Ability
2. Spiritual Gifts
3. READ: Proverbs 18:16

POINT: Joseph even at a young age, was not afraid to express his gift – vs. 5-10

**Q:** Do you have a vision for your gift, talents and abilities? Makes some notes about a potential vision statement for your gifts, talents, and abilities.

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### READ Genesis 37:11

A potential dream destroyer is jealousy. Because Jacob favored Joseph, he was resented by his brothers. Unchecked favoritism fractures relationships and blinds and prohibits people from working together to do God's work.

The brother's hatred grows when their wounds Go unaddressed

The brothers' hatred escalates from jealousy: to bitterness, to violence, to betrayal

**Q:** What does this say about sin?

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### READ: 37:18-25

Joseph is thrown into a pit by his brothers. Would you consider what Joesph's brother did, to be evil?

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READ: ROMANS 8:28

## **READ GENESIS 38: JUDAH**

Judah and his brother Joseph are both separated from their father and their brothers. Joseph because of the act of his brothers, Judah through his own choosing.

**READ: Genesis 27:26.** – What was Judah's action towards his brother Joseph?

Judah is an interesting brother because his life shows the depth of human brokenness.

Let's look at the brokenness of Judah's life

1. He leaves his family – 38:1
2. He marries a Canaanite woman – 38:2
3. He raises evil bad sons – 38:7-10
4. He mistreats his daughter in-law Tamar – 38 – He sends her away
5. He compromises his morality with sexual temptation – 38:16

Let's look at Tamar

1. Tamar is wronged 38:11 – Judah thinks she is responsible for his sons' deaths.
2. She is silenced and abandoned
3. She is a vulnerable woman
4. She tricks her father-in-law to impregnate her – 38:14-19
5. She has sons for Judah who are twins

**Q:** Do you feel sorry or empathy for Tamar? Is she left powerless?

**Q:** Does God show mercy toward Tamar?

**Q:** How does Tamar make it in the lineage of Jesus – Matthew 1:3

## **READ GENESIS 39:1-7**

Joseph is successful because of God: his talent, charisma and connections.

God given success is possible with His presence.

## CONCLUSION

1. What areas matter most to you? Circle your answer

Faith, Character, Family, Relationships, Career, Finances, Health, Other

2. What are your short-term goals? 1-3 months

I. \_\_\_\_\_

Habit: \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

Habit: \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

Habit: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Commit to continuous learning

What skills, knowledge or areas do you need to grow in to reach your goals

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