

Joseph in the Pit The Life of Joseph

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Key Truth:

Evil and hatred are strong, but not strong enough to hinder God's Good and Loving Plan.

By now, Joseph's brothers are consumed with jealousy and hatred, even to the point where they plot his murder and end up selling him into slavery. These emotions, if left unchecked, can fester in our minds until they end up destroying us and hurting those around us. However, as strong as these are, they are no match for God's grace. His eternal plan is to save us, both from others and from ourselves. But faith in God brings his plan and purposes to bear in our lives. Joseph's story demonstrates how strong a truth that is.

DISCUSS

Read **Genesis 37:12-36** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Joseph in the Pit**.

DIG IN

1. A Mission of Peace. (Genesis 37:12-17)

Jacob sends Joseph on a mission to find his brothers, to see if it is "well" (Hebrew: *shalom*, peace) with them. Joseph happily complied. What does this tell you about Jacob's attitude toward his sons, and about Joseph's feelings toward his brothers?

2. An Evil Plan. (Genesis 37:18-35)

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming they concocted a plan to murder him. This devolved into three plans: to kill him, to put him in a pit, and to sell him. Describe the hatred in their hearts that would cause them to plan these things.

Read Genesis 37:19-20: What do the brothers really want to rid themselves of? Why do they want to do this?

Read Genesis 37:31-32: Describe how the brothers attempted to cover up their crime. In what ways does this amplify their guilt?

3. An Unhindered Purpose. (Genesis 37:36)

Read Genesis 37:36: In what ways is God's purpose for Joseph and his brothers advanced by his being taken to Egypt?

How does this story remind us of the life of Jesus Christ?

DO

Describe a time in your life when you've allowed negative emotions cause you to do something you regret. What will you resolve to do differently in the future when the same emotions arise?