

Hot Cup of Joe - Nov 15th - How do you like your coffee? - Troy Knight

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 37
Genesis 37:2b
Genesis 37:3
Genesis 37:18-20

Start reading

Genesis 37:2b

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

Genesis 37:3

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

Genesis 37:11

But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

Genesis 37:18-20

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. 20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How do you like your coffee? If your family members were cups of coffee who would be the black, the cream, the double shot espresso, the caramel mocha Frappuccino? If you SG Group members were cups of coffee what would they be?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Genesis 37. How did Jacob's favoritism toward Rachel and then Joseph play a part in this family's dysfunction. Did you experience similar dysfunction when you were growing up? What are some practical lessons families can learn from their stories? Are there any "family history" issues you need to overcome or avoid? Any items you want to preserve for your family?
- Describe your relationship with your siblings. Can you relate to some of the feelings in Joseph's family? Explain.
- As a parent or grandparent how do you love your kids equally?
- Genesis 37:18-20 records the bitter words and evil plot of Joseph's brothers. How does jealousy and bitterness lead to really stupid decisions? Can you think of examples in your life?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- God used Joseph and his brothers to be the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. How does that reality speak to God's redemptive power? Have you experienced God's redemptive power in your own life? Share with the group.
- What was the importance of Joseph's dreams for his family? For Joseph? How did those dreams sustain Joseph in the hard days that lay ahead for him?
- Do you remember your dreams? What are some funny dreams you have had? Have you ever felt God has spoken to you through your dreams? Do you feel like shaped your future? If so, share with the group.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Troy talked about how if we are quitting when things get hard then we aren't making an impact. Commit this week when a hard situation comes your way to standing strong in the Lord and learn from the situation.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- God, thank you so much for the story of the life of Joseph. Please help me to learn to stand strong in Your power when things in life get hard. Please continue to work in and bless my family. Please use Joseph's story to help my family to see where we have dysfunction and help us to overcome it. -Amen

Start digging. For further study.

- Read the 2nd page and discuss it.

Question: "What is the story of Joseph and his brothers?"

Answer: Joseph was the second youngest of twelve brothers born to Jacob, who was called Israel. In Genesis 37:3–4 we read, “Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.” The same passage also discusses two dreams Joseph had that angered his brothers; the dreams indicated his brothers would someday bow to him. Joseph’s brothers also despised him due to their father’s overt favoritism toward him.

One day, Joseph traveled to check on his brothers while they were watching their sheep. His brothers plotted against him, threw him in an empty well, and later sold him as a slave to some traveling Midianites. Applying animal blood to his “ornate robe,” they returned home and made Jacob believe his son had been killed by wild animals.

In the meantime, Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold to the captain of the guard, Potiphar, as a household slave. Joseph was later falsely accused of attempting to rape Potiphar’s wife and thrown into prison. While in prison, Joseph accurately interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh’s servants, who were also incarcerated. Later, Pharaoh had a disturbing dream no one could interpret. One of the servants Joseph had previously helped then suggested to Pharaoh that Joseph could interpret the dream. Joseph was summoned from prison, and he interpreted Pharaoh’s dream in such a powerful way that he was appointed second-in-command over Egypt.

Pharaoh’s dream predicted seven years of famine. During the famine, Joseph’s older brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize Joseph, now twenty years older, and he treated them harshly, pretending that he thought they were spies. Joseph kept one brother in prison until the others brought their youngest brother, Benjamin, back to Egypt to prove they were not spies. They brought Benjamin with them on a return trip, and, after a series of twists that included his brothers bowing before him—in fulfillment of Joseph’s dream of long ago—Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. They were shocked, yet soon glad to be reunited. Joseph sent word for the entire family to join them in Egypt until after the famine.

Later, when their father, Jacob, died, Joseph’s brothers feared that Joseph would take revenge against them for their prior treatment of him. They came to Joseph and begged for his forgiveness, appealing to a request their father had made before he died (Genesis 50:16–17) Joseph wept when he heard their appeal. Revenge was the last thing on his mind. Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:19–20).

In the story of Joseph and his brothers, we see the themes of forgiveness, the father-son bond, sibling rivalry, brotherly love, God’s sovereignty, and God’s greater good in times of suffering. Just like Joseph, we are called to forgive those who have offended us and see life’s experiences as part of God’s plan to help us serve others.