

This week...

**Read all the related passages: Acts 7:9-19;
Genesis 37:2-11; 17b-19; 23-25**

Monday Acts 7:9-10 *“Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.”*

Define “jealous”, and then consider when you have experienced or observed the effects of jealousy. We are seldom responsible for causing jealousy, but this doesn’t lessen its destructive impact on us. Notice how God cared for and even rewarded Joseph in the midst of his trial. Can you see God’s care upon you when others attack?

Tuesday Genesis 37:2 *“Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.”*

A bad report is not always a deliberate effort to hurt someone else. Many bad reports are nothing more than reporting the truth about someone else’s bad behavior or poor character. What can we learn about Joseph here?

Wednesday Genesis 37:4-5 *“The brothers hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.”*

Hate is a powerful emotion. Meditate on these verses while remembering how many years this hate has grown. What

part did Jacob play in these destructive patterns? Be aware of your role in the lives of others.

Thursday Genesis 37:8-11 *“they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.”*

Joseph’s was a life in the pressure cooker. Why did Jacob rebuke Joseph? What are some things we might learn about good and bad parenting from this passage, and why did Jacob “keep the matter in mind”?

Friday Genesis 37:24-25, 28; 32, 35-36 *“and they took him and threw him into the cistern. As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, ‘We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.’ All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.”*

Read the entire passage of 37:24-36 to understand the escalation of this event. Think about the trap we create for ourselves through lying. Ten brothers are setting the stage to build an entire world of lies that must continue for decades around their sinful act. What must it have been like for them, their families, and their relationships as the years ticked by? Have you had similar experiences? What would Christ have us do to avoid these dark places?