



Week #1: A New Battle

Series Big Idea: God was in both the _____ and _____ of Joseph's life.

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.

Genesis 37:2 (NIV)

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.

Genesis 37:3-4 (NIV)

- Unresolved family issues _____ the next generation.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:5-8 (NIV)

- Joseph had the right _____, but not the right _____.

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:17-20 (NIV)

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

Genesis 37:23-24 (NIV)

- The pit isn't the _____; it's the _____.

Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days... Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:31-34, 36 (NIV)

Final Thought:

When everyone believed the story was _____, God was already writing the _____.

Discussion questions:

1. What family patterns, wounds, expectations, or unresolved issues have influenced your own relationship with God, yourself, or others? How might God be inviting you to address them rather than simply pass them on?
2. Is there an area of calling, gifting, leadership, or influence where God may be developing your character before entrusting you with greater responsibility? What might spiritual maturity look like in this season?
3. Where in your life do you feel stuck in the "messy middle"? between God's promises and their fulfillment? How does knowing that God is still writing your story shape the way you view your current circumstances?

Recommended resources:

[You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times](#), by Max Lucado

[Joseph: A Story of Love, Hate, Slavery, Power, and Forgiveness](#), by John C. Lennox

[It's Not Supposed to Be This Way](#), by Lysa TerKeurst

[The Dream of You: Let Go of Broken Identities and Live the Life You Were Made For](#), by Jo Saxton

(NIV) New International Version

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- Unresolved family issues impact the next generation.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

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- Joseph had the right message, but not the right maturity.

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

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- The pit isn't the end; it's the messy middle.

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Final Thought:

When everyone believed the story was over, God was already writing the next chapter

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