

## LESSONS ON THE FAMILY

### From the Life of Joseph – Part 1

#### *Leader's Notes*



It's wonderful to belong to a family, but families are not perfect! Sadly some are very broken. The issues we face today are not new. All through human history families have had struggles. We are going to look at one family in the Bible to see what caused the problems they had, and how they overcame them. This is the story of Joseph's family and it begins when he is seventeen years old.

#### **Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:1-11**

- ✦ What kind of relationship did Joseph's father, Jacob, have with him? V3, 35  
(V3 *Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers – at this time Joseph was the 'baby' of the family.*  
V3 *Jacob spoilt Joseph and gave him a special coat.*  
V35 *Jacob loved Joseph so much he never got over his loss.*)




- ✦ How did Joseph's brothers feel about this? V4, 11  
(V4 *It made the brothers hate Joseph and speak badly of him.*  
V11 *The brothers became jealous of Joseph.*)

**Share**

Do you feel that your father or mother love one of your siblings (brothers or sisters) more than they love you? Why do you feel that? Share.

- ✦ Joseph was also in the wrong! What did he do that aggravated the situation and made it worse? V2, 8  
(V2 *He told stories about his brothers, so the father thought badly of them.*  
V8 *He was unwise in the way he shared his dreams with his brothers. It may have appeared boastful that he was placing himself above his parents and his brothers.*)

Draw a diagram of the relationships in Joseph's family.

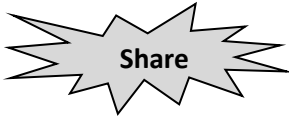
1. Draw a bold line for a strong/close relationship. 
2. Draw a single line for a good relationship. 
3. Draw a wavy line for a relationship that was sometimes good and sometimes bad.
4. Draw a dotted line for a relationship in conflict. 

Father

Joseph

Brothers



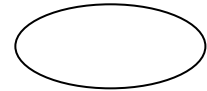
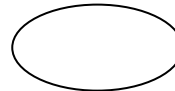
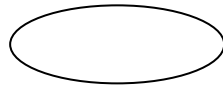
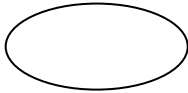


What is your relationship with your brothers and sisters like? Share. Are you guilty of doing the same things as Joseph did?

Now draw a diagram of the relationships within your family. Write the names of your brothers and or sisters in the spaces. Create more if needed.

Father

Mother



It's so easy to blame our parents or our siblings for the way things are in our family, but what can you do to help change the way things are? Discuss and share together.



Spend time praying about the things you have shared with one another. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Allow him to minister to any who have hurts or rejection, and encourage these ones to forgive their parents or siblings.

## **Conclusion**

Many of us know how the story of Joseph ends! The jealousy and animosity between the brothers led to Joseph being sold as a slave to a group of nomadic Midianites, who then sold him to an Egyptian. In an amazing turn of events Joseph became the governor of Egypt! God used the brokenness to accomplish his purposes in and through the life of Joseph. The situation in your family may be discouraging, but as you trust him and pray, he is able to change your lives and work all things together for good.