

# Invitation

## SESSION 2

# FAMILY

*“Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented 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

## 2. THE STORY OF JOSEPH-CONFLICT IN THE FAMILY

### MEMORY VERSE

“Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented 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

### THE WORLD IN ME

- I can't get along with my family.
- Nobody respects me.
- I don't need them!

### THINGS TO DO EACH DAY

Pray daily before study - *“Dear God, Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Shine the light of your Love on my understanding. Amen.”*

Day 1 - Read Genesis 37 (Joseph Dreams/Joseph sold into slavery)

Day 2 - Read Genesis 39-40 (Joseph and Potiphar's wife/Joseph in prison)

Day 3 - Read Genesis 41-42 (Joseph and Pharaoh/Joseph's brothers go to Egypt)

Day 4 - Read Genesis 43-45 (The silver cup/Joseph makes himself known)

Day 5 - Read Genesis 46-47 (Jacob goes to Egypt/Joseph reunited with Jacob)

Day 6 - Read the workbook and answer the questions in the “Teach Me the Bible” and “God's Word in Me” sections

Day 7 - Rest and group meeting

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## TEACH ME THE BIBLE

The story of Joseph teaches us about conflicts in families and family responsibility. Joseph was the second youngest son of his father Jacob and the first-born son of Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. The Bible tells us that Jacob loved Joseph the best. To show his love, he gave Joseph a beautiful coat with long sleeves. Who could work in such a coat? It was obvious that Joseph was the favored one! The other sons were very jealous.

The roots of the family conflict went way back. Joseph's mother Rachel was very jealous of her sister Leah. In those days men had more than one wife. Both Leah and Rachel were married to Jacob, and they were in competition with one another to produce more sons for Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons in all. But Rachel was the Number One wife in Jacob's eyes and Joseph, her first-born, was his favorite son.

Joseph was spoiled, and he was a bragger. Joseph had dreams. In those days, dreams were thought to come directly from God. Joseph dreamed that he was greater than his brothers and that his brothers were bowing down to him. These dreams made his brothers furious!

When Joseph was at home near his father he was safe, but when he went out into the fields he was in danger. His brothers plotted against him. One day they grabbed Joseph, ripped off his long sleeved coat and threw him into a pit. Though Joseph pleaded for mercy, the brothers had no mercy. They sat down and ate lunch while they decided what to do with Joseph. Some of the brothers wanted to kill Joseph but instead they decided to sell him into slavery. The brothers dipped Joseph's robe in goat's blood and told Jacob that a wild animal had killed Joseph. Jacob was so grief stricken he could not be comforted.

Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold to a man named Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. While he was in Potiphar's home, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph but Joseph resisted. Potiphar's wife lied and told her husband that Joseph had tried to take advantage of her. Potiphar believed his wife and had Joseph thrown into prison! Poor Joseph; he had been sold into slavery by his brothers and accused of a crime he did not commit. Things looked very bad for him! The situation seemed hopeless.

Recall what seemed like a hopeless situation for you. How did you handle it?

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God was with Joseph, and with God there is always hope! One day, Joseph correctly interpreted a dream for a cupbearer and a baker who were in prison with him. Later, when the Pharaoh had some dreams that needed interpreting, the cupbearer told Pharaoh about Joseph. Joseph was released and taken to Pharaoh. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and told of a terrible famine to come. He told Pharaoh that there would be seven good years followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh released Joseph from prison and made him a governor in Egypt. In a matter of moments, Joseph had gone from being a prisoner without hope, to a leader of Egypt. God was with Joseph!

*“God was with Joseph, and with God there is always hope!”*



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Joseph had a plan to save Egypt from the famine. During the seven good years, Joseph would store up grain so that there would be enough to keep the people from starving during the seven bad years. When the famine came, many people traveled to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph. Joseph's brothers also came during this time. When the brothers stood before Joseph, Joseph recognized them, but they did not recognize Joseph. Joseph decided to play some tricks on his brothers, but he finally revealed himself to them. When Joseph revealed himself, the brothers were stunned and did not know how Joseph would treat them; however, it was soon apparent that Joseph had forgiven them. The Bible says that they wept with joy and embraced one another. In the end, Joseph was reunited with his father, Jacob. Though Joseph endured many hardships, God was with him. Joseph had faith that God would save him, and God did not let him down.

## GOD'S WORD IN ME

Joseph had trouble with his brothers. Are you having trouble with any members of your family? If so, what is the problem?

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In the end, Joseph made up with his brothers by forgiving them. List some ways you can offer forgiveness.

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*“Joseph had trouble with his brothers. Are you having trouble with any members of your family?”*

## I. 2

## PRAYER CONCERNS FOR THE WEEK

(Below, list out prayer concerns for the week)



