



Living Beyond Your Circumstances

Lesson 1: Overcoming Betrayal

Scriptures: Genesis 37:19-27; 39:1-2 (NIV)

Background Scripture Genesis 37

Betrayal:

1. To deliver or expose to an enemy by treachery or disloyalty 2. To be unfaithful in guarding, maintaining, or fulfilling 3. To disappoint the hopes or expectations of; be disloyal to

Jealous:

Feeling resentment against someone because of that person's rivalry, success, or advantages

Question: What did sibling rivalry look like at your house, if at all?

Genesis 37:19-24

19 “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other.

20 “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.”

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said.

22 “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.



Genesis 37:25-27

25 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelite's coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

26 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelite's and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

Genesis 39:1-2

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Live It Out

Choosing our responses to betrayal

1. Look back, make a list of the different ways God has worked in your life in the past.
2. Forgive others and identify a betrayal that continues to impact your life. Take a step to move forward toward forgiveness and healing in that relationship.



Discussion Questions

- What is your gut or instant reaction to Joseph's betrayal?
- What are our options when we feel betrayed?
- Since God is always at work, what's our responsibility when we can't see what He is doing?
- Even after betrayal, how do we behave in ways that show God is at work?

Jacob's Family

Children of Leah:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah

Children by Bilhah:

Dan and Naphtali

Children of Zilpah

Gad and Asher

Children by Rachel

Joseph and Benjamin