

**When Relationships Collide**  
**Lesson 6: The Big Picture**  
**Background Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4**  
**Genesis 37:5-8, 26-28; 50:15-21**

**Question:** *Have you ever seen a silver lining in a difficult situation?*

**Genesis 37:5-8**

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

7 "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

8 And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

**Genesis 37:26-28**

26 So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?

27 "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

28 Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**Genesis 50:15-21**

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."

16 So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

21 "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Life Application Questions**

- When have you seen behaviors like this fuel the fire of conflict?
- How has conflict shaped your life?
- What will help you extend forgiveness when you're wronged?



- How can we encourage each other when we struggle to see evidence that God is at work in difficult situations?

### Live It Out

**Conflict can be draining, but God can use whatever conflict we are facing to bring meaningful results in our lives. Conflict can lead to resolution which ultimately can lead to a far stronger relationship. And in the process, God can strengthen our faith and endurance.**

- **Trust.** Even if you can't see God's hand yet, trust that he is at work.
- **Forgive.** Regardless of who's at fault in the conflict, forgive the other person.
- **Call.** Contact someone and let him or her know how God changed you because of your experience with the conflict.

**Could God be at work in your conflict, preparing a better story for you?**