

HiStory

4 – While In the Valley

(Reflections from the sermon on January 24, 2016)

“The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did...”
Genesis 39:2 NLT

No doubt, Joseph was a typical adolescent and teenage boy; full of bravado and confidence. He bragged about his dream of superiority over his brothers and the brothers were very tired of hearing about it. Not that the other 10 brothers (Benjamin was not old enough) didn't have enough to hate him but their father loved Joseph more than the others and had demonstrated his preference by cloaking him with a very colorful coat.

When Genesis 37 opens as “the story, or account, of Jacob and his family,” the very next sentence starts with the name, Joseph. You cannot speak of Jacob, who would be re-named Israel by God (Gen. 35:10), without speaking of his favorite son, Joseph, and all his experiences.

Read Genesis 37 – Joseph and his brothers

1. What were the sins of Jacob's 10 sons (vs. 18-36)?
2. How does the Lord feel about sin?
 - a. **Proverbs 28:13** –
 - b. **Psalm 1:5** –
 - c. **Jeremiah 44:4** –
 - d. **Proverbs 6:16-19** –

3 – The Promise and Plan of God

3. The Bible reminds us that the sins of the father are passed down to the offspring (i.e. 1 Kings 15:3). Do you know what sin Jacob committed that is reflected in his sons' behavior?

Genesis 39-45 – Joseph and his rise to importance

1. From the pit to the palace – how did that happen (refer to **Genesis 39:2-6**)?
 - a. **Genesis 39:20-23** –
 - b. **Genesis 41:9-13** –
 - c. **Genesis 41:41-43** –
 - d. **Genesis 45:3-7** –
2. How did the Lord benefit his stay in the prison?

How do you see Jesus in this story of redemption and forgiveness?