



**Valley Forge Baptist • Sunday Morning August 9th, 2020**  
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**God, Please Help My Messed Up Family • Genesis 37: 1-5**

A prayer that almost everyone can identify with – including the very first family, Adam and Eve, who in a perfect environment fell into sin and became a messed up family. Their first son Cain murders their second son Abel. Today we use the term dysfunctional family to describe a family in conflict. If you've ever been abused, victimized, or wronged, or you know of someone who has, then Joseph's your man to learn from.

## 1. Reflections about Joseph's Amazing Story

*A. Joseph's story is the \_\_\_\_\_ in Genesis*

One fourth of Genesis is about Joseph.

*B. Joseph is the Clearest Picture of \_\_\_\_\_ in the OT*

Both were innocent, both chosen and beloved by their father, both sent to their brothers, both sold as slaves. Like Jesus, Joseph was between two criminals, pronouncing salvation to one and death to the other. Joseph forgave those who condemned him – so did Jesus.

*C. Joseph Lived the Truth of \_\_\_\_\_*

When you and I struggle with the trials, when our world gets turned upside down, when friends or family mistreat us, when tragedy strikes, that's a good time to learn from the life of Joseph. He never turned his back on God; he never gave up his faith; he never turned to sin to comfort his hurt and pain.

## 2. The Highs and Lows of Joseph's Childhood

How to keep lines of communication open in a family at mealtime

- Bible Reading
- Q & A about issues in the news
- Sticky Situations
- The UnGame
- "What If" books
- A Word to the Wise by Paul Chappell
- Make Everyday Count App (Focus on Family)
- Share the Highs and Lows of your Day

### *A. The Highs of Joseph's Childhood*

1) A Godly \_\_\_\_\_

His great grandfather was Abraham, the friend of God. His grandfather Isaac and father Jacob are also in the Hebrews hall of faith. Joseph heard them talk about God and His promises.

2) He saw \_\_\_\_\_ in the life of his dad

Genesis 32 – His dad wrestled with God. God gave Jacob a new name and a reminder.

Reminder – a limp for life

Name – Israel (God's Fighter; I wrestled with God)

Joseph learned the lesson – God is real! God blesses those who come to Him broken and repentant. He blesses those who long for God more than anything else. Imagine the impact this made on this young Joseph!

Dads, I hope you have some things in your life you can tell your kids that says, "God is real in your life."

Genesis 35 – Jacob took his family to Bethel and challenged them to make a covenant with God.

3) The \_\_\_\_\_ Son, Genesis 37:3

### *B. The Lows of Joseph's Childhood*

- Death of his mother Rachel
- Blended Family Challenges
- Angry and Hateful Brothers, v. 4
- Object of Mocking and Ridicule, v. 5, 19
- Plot to Murder, v. 12-14

- Sold as a Slave, v. 26-28
- His Father deceived, v. 31-34

### 3. God, please help my messed up family

A. Give your \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus Christ

There are only two kinds of people in the world according to Jesus.

Saved and Lost, Matthew 7:13-14

Child of God and Child of the Devil, John 8:44

Spiritually Alive and Spiritually Dead, John 3:3; Rev. 3:1

Wise and Foolish, Matthew 7:24-27

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”*

**Galatians 3:28**

The Bible makes things clear. Right now, you are either saved or lost. It doesn't matter if your family is messed up or not. You need Jesus Christ in your heart. Without Him, you will pay the penalty for all of your sins!

Do you want to know how to overcome a difficult start in life without becoming a victim or repeating the same sinful cycle as your parents and grandparents? Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.

B. Take \_\_\_\_\_ for your thoughts, feelings, words, and actions

“The last of all great human freedoms is to choose one's response to any given set of circumstances.” Victor Frankl, Holocaust Survivor

The easier and more popular route is to use your circumstances as an excuse for personal sin, addictive lifestyles, and foolish behavior.

How do I choose personal responsibility?

- 1) Acknowledge that you are responsible for the choices you make.
- 2) Take control of the influences you allow to influence you - what you read, see, and listen to.
- 3) Accept responsibility for how you think and feel.
- 4) Make goals and choose the direction for your life.

Small Sins lead to Big Problems. Joseph's messed up family was filled with deception, favoritism, hatred, and unforgiveness.

C. Stop \_\_\_\_\_, *Matthew 7:3-5, Genesis 3:11*

You can refuse to dwell on blaming others for your circumstances.

D. Stop \_\_\_\_\_

*"Do all things without murmurings and disputings."*

**Philippians 2:14**

E. \_\_\_\_\_ *to Live in the Joy of the Lord*

*"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."*

**Philippians 4:4**

*"The joy of the Lord is your strength."*

**Nehemiah 8:10**

F. \_\_\_\_\_ *for your Family*

God wants to protect us and provide for us in every way. But sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead.

If you have never trusted Christ as your Savior, you can today and God will help you and \_\_\_\_\_ your messed up family!