

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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### *Accept It*

#### **Scripture Passage: Genesis 37:5-11,19-27**

**The Point: God can overcome people's evil intentions, turning the effects of those intentions for His good purposes.**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

- A. This session begins a series of four studies that focus on the life of Joseph, Jacob's eleventh son—the first son born to his beloved wife Rachel.
- B. We will learn in these sessions that even from the earliest times in Scripture, God worked to turn the effects of people's evil intentions for His good purposes.
- C. The biblical text introduces Joseph as the seventeen-year-old favorite son of his father, Jacob.
- D. Joseph tended his father's sheep alongside his older brothers.
- E. He angered his brothers by tattling on them to their father.
- F. He alienated them further when he received a multicolored robe from his father.

#### **II. RULE OVER US? (Genesis 37:5-11)**

- A. "then" = the straw that broke the camel's back (v.5).
  - 1. In biblical times, dreams often played an important role as a mode of divine Revelation.
  - 2. The brothers already hated him. Joseph was the favorite and he knew it!
- B. "listen" = he was eager to tell them his dream and what it meant (v.6).
  - 1. He wanted them to take it seriously.
  - 2. He was saying to them, "see I told you I was right."
- C. The brothers as well as the entire household would have been involved in this work (v.7).
  - 1. "my sheaf" = a specific bundle that Joseph had gathered and tied.
  - 2. "your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down" = Joseph's brothers would bow down before him.
- D. "reign over" = to reign as king or queen, "rule" = to have authority or dominion over (v.8).
  - 1. "hated him even more" because of their father's favoritism toward Joseph.
- E. A few days later Joseph eagerly told them about another dream, he didn't catch on to what his brothers had said or what they were feeling (v.9).
  - 1. The dream pointed to Joseph's future authority over his entire family.
- F. Even his father thought it was crazy (v.10).
- G. The brothers wanted what he had but his father was more thoughtful (v.11).

### III. **WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR DREAMS NOW? (Genesis 37:19-24)**

- A. Joseph's brothers led the family herds from Hebron toward Shechem.
  - 1. Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and the flocks (vv.12-14).
  - 2. When Joseph failed to find them at Shechem, he met a man who gave him directions as to their location (vv.15-17).
  - 3. The brothers had moved the flocks some fourteen miles northward to Dothan.
- B. They saw him coming (vv.19-20).
  - 1. They were sarcastic when they called him the lord of dreams.
  - 2. "kill" = not murder, slaughter like an animal.
  - 3. Throw him in a pit and let him die there.
  - 4. They were already planning on how they could deceive their father.
  - 5. They were saying, "If he's dead we don't have to worry about serving him!"
- C. Reuben tries to save his life (vv.21-22).
- D. He was attacked and the special robe was ripped off of him (v.23).
- E. They did what Reuben had requested (v.24).

### IV. **WHAT DO WE GAIN? (Genesis 37:25-27)**

- A. They enjoyed a meal while their brother was crying for help (v.25).
  - 1. These merchants were going to Egypt.
- B. This is going to cost us if he dies (v.26).
- C. They sold him as a slave. They got rid of him, made a little money and didn't have his death on them (v.27).
  - 1. I wonder how many times they walked past this place, I wonder if they walked by it on their way to Egypt?

### V. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Believers must use wisdom when sharing God's truth with others, realizing that some will reject His truth.
- B. Believers must guard themselves from jealousy when God uses others in His service.
- C. Believers can be thankful that God's plans will ultimately be accomplished in spite of the efforts of some to thwart His plans.
- D. Teaching Ideas
  - 1. Create Interest
    - a. Has telling the truth every got you in trouble?
  - 2. Closing Challenge
    - a. Spend time praying for those that have sought to harm you.
- E. Don't Forget!!!
  - 1. Accept It & Genesis 37:5-11,19-27
  - 2. God can overcome people's evil intentions, turning the effects of those intentions for His good purposes.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at [gabaptist.org/groups](http://gabaptist.org/groups) for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at [facebook.com/GABaptistGroups](https://facebook.com/GABaptistGroups). Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at [tsmith@gabaptist.org](mailto:tsmith@gabaptist.org).