



Moving Past the Past (Joseph)

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Introduction:

- Lots of family drama
- Deep wounds from those closest

So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner. This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever.

Genesis 37:1-5

"Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way... When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

Genesis 37:14, 18-20

Moving Past the Past

1. Face _____
[Genesis 39:5-6; Genesis 39:22-23]

2. Embrace _____

Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." Joseph named his second son Ephraim for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

Genesis 41:51-52

3. Trust _____

And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So it was God who sent me here, not you!"

Genesis 45:4-8

Next Steps:

- ☐ Read Genesis 37, 39-45 (Joseph's story)
- ☐ Pray for me as I try to move past my past
- ☐ As I move forward in life, I will focus on #____
- ☐ My next step is forgiveness for _____
- ☐ I trust my future to God and have faith that I can overcome my past wounds by trusting in God and accepting my situation in life
- ☐ _____