



## Part 2: In the Pit

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### Last week:

- Joseph was the favorite son
- Joseph was a dreamer
- Joseph did not use his spiritual gift with wisdom
- Joseph was hated by his brothers

### This week: Genesis 37:17b-24

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

<sup>19</sup> “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. <sup>20</sup> “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

<sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. <sup>22</sup> “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing— <sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

### Stuff you can do in a pit:

- 1) Sulk
- 2) Attempt to find a way out
- 3) Plot revenge on those who put you in the pit
- 4) Get angry at the God who made the pit

### Better stuff you can do in a pit:

- 1) Be honest about how you got there

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. – Psalm 51:3-4

- 2) Be still

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. – Psalm 46:10

*(Continues on back)*

### 3) Be convinced that God is with you

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. – Psalm 139:8

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me... – Psalm 23:4

### **This week: Genesis 37:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

<sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

**How would my life be different if I was absolutely convinced  
in every moment, no matter how good or how bad,  
that God was with me?**

### **Next Steps**

It's not too late to take a recovery class. CTK offers 4 recovery classes that just started—12 Steps, Changes, Deep Healing, and Boundaries. Find out more on page 3 of our Winter Classes flyer and sign up at the Connection Point today.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) How do you feel physically when it's foggy? How do you usually respond when life is spiritually foggy?
- 2) Who would you say is the bad guy in the story thus far? Joseph? The brothers? Jacob? God?
- 3) Share a moment in your life when you felt that God was bending you beyond what you could bear. How did you spiritually navigate that difficult season?
- 4) Read the instructions that are listed above from the Psalms. How can we live those out? How do we make them real in difficult times?
- 5) This section of the story does not have a happy ending. Joseph moves from the pit into slavery. Where do you find Jesus in this section of Joseph's life?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?

**OUR MISSION** | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.