

Joseph inherits every hurtful family pattern and is confronted with a question: Am I going to perpetuate my family's brokenness?

Family Patterns Affecting Joseph

1. Favoritism (37:3)
2. Violence and Jealousy (37:19-24)
3. Deceit (37:31-33)
4. Sexual Brokenness (39:1-20)
5. Exploitation (40:1-23)
6. Betrayal and rejection (37:36; 40:23)
7. Intelligence (39: 2-3)
8. Giftedness (41)
9. Blessing (41:56-57)

Genesis 42:1-28: Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Genesis 42:22-24

Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.

He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.

Genesis 43:29-30

As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.

Genesis 44: A Silver Cup in a Sack

Takeaways

Joseph is conflicted because changing family patterns is hard.

The story we have inherited is not the story we are determined to live.

Being a conduit of God's blessing in the world always involves undoing the brokenness we have inherited.

Are you willing to allow God to change your story?

Small Group Questions

1. As young people, most of us have said something to the effect of "I will *never* turn out like my parents!" Which of their quirks, traits, or parenting "techniques" have you inherited anyway?
2. At least nine family patterns—some positive, some negative—affected Joseph (see above). Can you identify any family patterns—positive or negative—that have affected you? In what ways?
3. What would it look like to allow God to change the patterns you have inherited? Are you willing to allow God to do that?
4. How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?