

LESSON 1

First, let's learn an important key to success we see in the story about his birth...

Genesis 29:31–30:1 • JACOB'S WIVES

Joseph's family teaches us a critical life lesson... (Unscramble the answers)

Rachel was loved but _____ RABNER

Leah was unloved but _____ LEFTIRE

Both wives wanted _____ HTAW EHT REOHT AHD

And neither one was _____ TCNONET

Genesis 29:22–24 • JOSEPH'S BIRTH

Joseph's name means "God has added" – yet, to Rachel, the meaning of his name is: _____

Think about it: Even when God finally gives Rachel what she said she wanted more than anything—she immediately wants another son.

Lesson: No one on earth can satisfy us. No human relationship. No husband or child, wife, husband, or parent.

2 Peter 1:3 • What does God give us in the knowledge of Jesus? _____

Philippians 3:8 • What compares to knowing Christ? _____

John 17:3 • Eternal life is defined as: _____

Our fulfillment must come from _____ alone.

Do you ever struggle with envy? What is it that you long for? _____

Why is it dangerous to think you will be content and satisfied once you have what

the other person has? _____

Genesis 37:1-3 • JOSEPH'S STORY BEGINS

Which of these are seen in Joseph in these verses? (circle the 5 correct answers)

AUTHORITY • FAVORED • GENEROUS
HANDSOME • ROMANTIC • SERVANT
STEWARD • WARRIOR • YOUNGER

How do the verses below apply to Joseph?

Luke 22:26 • _____

Mark 9:35 • _____

What does this teach us about position and power? _____

Was Joseph being a little “tattle tale” and a “snitch”? Was he behaving arrogantly because of his special coat? Let’s find out!

Genesis 37:2 • How old was Joseph when he brought back the bad report about his brother’s shepherding? _____

Which means, since Joseph was the second-youngest, about how old were his brothers?

Genesis 37:14 • Jacob was concerned about the welfare of his sons and _____

The point: By this time, some of his brothers had their own wives and children! They were supposed to be responsible adults! Yet, they were mistreating their father’s flocks. The herds were the family business—and Jacob’s flourishing flock was because of God’s blessing upon his family.

Joseph wasn’t being an arrogant little snitch! He was being a faithful steward of his dad’s property; he was even putting himself at great personal risk in speaking out against his brother’s evil. Joseph’s responsible stewardship is a critical virtue we will see God using powerfully when he is in Egypt.

One more point:

Ezekiel 34:7-16 • What does this describe? _____

Realize: God is talking about His people as “sheep.” But, good shepherds (of real sheep) illustrate God’s love and care as the ultimate Good Shepherd. Bad shepherds in the Old Testament don’t point us to Jesus; they give shepherding a bad name!

Genesis 37:4–11 • HATED BY HIS BROTHERS

Joseph’s father Jacob was choosing a favorite son—showing favoritism. But, remember: Favoritism already a big problem in Jacob’s life story! What happens in these passages...?

Genesis 25:28 _____

Genesis 29:30–32 _____

The brother’s hatred is more than just jealousy about dad showing favoritism. They hated Joseph for the divine dreams he related to them.

In Stephen’s sermon in Acts 7, he talks about Joseph and his brothers.

Acts 7:9 & 52 • Stephen calls Joseph a _____

Amos 3:7–8 • What does Amos say about this? _____

So, was Joseph *wrong* to tell his family of his divine dreams? _____

How do these verses illustrate Joseph’s story?

John 15:18 _____

John 15:25 _____