

LESSON 2

Genesis 37:12–17 • The Son is Sent

In this passage, the father Jacob sent his beloved son Joseph to check on the welfare of his brothers and the flocks. Sound familiar?

Notice: The brothers had first taken the flocks to Shechem. A few chapters earlier, in Genesis 34, a tragic event happened in Shechem: Simeon and Levi slaughtered the men in Shechem when the family honor was insulted. This put Jacob's family in danger from the locals. The story is "adult-ish," so, ask your parents before you read it.

Luke 19:10 • What was Jesus' mission?

Luke 15:4–9 • What is the common theme—the reaction when the lost thing is found?

Luke 15:10 • What do the angels rejoice over?

Let's take this one step further...!

John 10:11 • What does Jesus claim to be here?

Ezekiel 34:11–13 • What does God do in this passage?

What does this teach us about the nature of God?

Genesis 37:18–28 • Joseph is betrayed

His brothers are jealous, hostile, and murderous.

Read each of these and match the theme (below) that we see in Joseph's story:

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| Matthew 26:3–4 ____ | a) They mocked him |
| Matthew 26:15 ____ | b) They plotted against him |
| Matthew 26:47 ____ | c) His tunic was stripped off |
| Matthew 27:24–26 ____ | d) He had a secret supporter |
| Matthew 27:39–43 ____ | e) His garment was bloodied |
| Matthew 27:62–64; Matthew 28:11–15 ____ | f) He was turned over to Gentiles |
| Luke 23:11; Luke 23:34; John 19:4–5 ____ | g) He was thrown into an empty pit |
| John 7:50–51; 12:42–43; & 19:38–39 ____ | h) They betrayed their own brother |
| John 11:49–51 ____ | i) His empty pit caused great dismay |
| John 18:28–32 ____ | j) He was sold for the price of a slave |
| John 19:41–42 ____ | k) Sold by a "Judah / Judas" (The same name in Hebrew & Greek!) |

Read Mark 12:1–12

What similarities do you see between the story Jesus tells of the vine-growers and the owner who sends his servants, and finally his son, to collect the profits?

PROPHETIC LIFE

I'm not sure if all of the connections we see between Joseph and Jesus are necessarily what God intended in the scriptures, because the New Testament doesn't say much about Joseph!

So, what is the best way to approach this? When dealing with people, places, and things in the Old Testament that seem to illustrate, or "point," to Jesus, I typically ask several questions:

1 • What was the original meaning of the passage? What was the original lesson in the story? Without even looking at prophecy, "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable..." Don't miss the clear lessons of the text!

2 • Does the New Testament describe this person, thing, or event as "type" of Jesus? If so—awesome! This is another evidence and proof that the Bible is God's inspired word. Enjoy it, and be even more in love with scripture!

3 • But, if the New Testament doesn't specifically spell something out as prophetic, then it is important not to sensationalize it. But, as long as it causes you to think about Jesus even more—that's great! Understand Him in greater depth. Worship Him in deeper wonder.

Here's this lesson:

How does YOUR life point to Jesus?

Do you portray the sacrificial love of Jesus?

Do you seek and save the lost, like Jesus the Good Shepherd?

Do you love your enemies, as Jesus did?

Take a moment and journal about this. Write a prayer asking Jesus to make your life point people to Him!