



Navigating Life's Messiness

A three-part devotional & prayer study based on the life of Joseph

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Open your Bible to Genesis chapter 37. Joseph (son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham) is first introduced to us in Genesis 30:22-24, but his story begins to unfold for us in Genesis 37. Like most stories, Joseph's life is full of positive moments – and negative ones. As you spend this time diving into his life, you will quickly notice the deep messiness he encountered.

Go ahead and read all of Genesis 37. Go slow. Grab a pencil/pen/highlighter. Underline, circle, and highlight words & phrases that stand out to you. Write thoughts or questions in the margins. *Interact with Joseph's story.*



Imagine yourself in Joseph's situation. How might you be feeling? Begin to journey & understand the messiness he experiences through these questions:

- In your own words, summarize what has happened in our passage.
- What messy situations are currently taking place in Joseph's life?
- What feelings do you think Joseph might have experienced during this part of his life?
- How does Joseph respond to this messiness?
- Where do you see God at work so far?
- Would Joseph claim this portion of his life to be messy?
- Do you think Joseph is fully trusting in God at this moment?

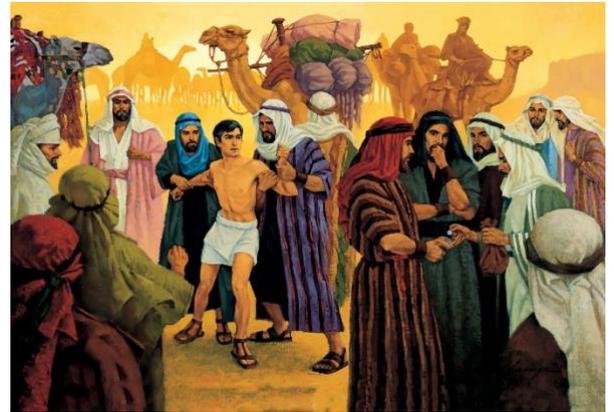
NOW – it's time to enter your own story!

You began to unpack Joseph's story.

His messiness was relational. His brothers betrayed him. His dad didn't believe him. Those closest to him abandoned him. Yet, in all this, Joseph still had God. While everyone left him and everything was taken away from him, God was not. He still had his relationship with God through prayer.

In your messiness, lots of things may be "upside-down." Still, like Joseph, you have a relationship with God.

Spend some time alone with God in prayer. Give over to Him the relational messiness that exists in your life. It could be that a family member or close friend has betrayed or abandoned you.



You may feel like they have left you “on the side of the road” alone and helpless. Tell God how you feel:

- What relational messiness do you need help navigating through?
- Ask Him for guidance, wisdom, understanding, peace, or whatever else you may need
- Plead with Him to be by your side as you navigate through your relational messiness.

Remember – God promises to navigate with you and for you!

