

Sermon Reflection

Sermon Series: Keeping It Real: Real Faith for Real Life

Sermon Message: When Family Gets to Actin' Up – July 19, 2026

Scripture

Genesis 37:3–11, 23–28 (NKJV)

Key Thought

Every family has imperfections, misunderstandings, and moments of hurt. Yet even when family relationships become difficult, God is still at work, and His purpose is still moving forward.

Overview

Genesis 37 introduces us to one of the most challenging family stories in Scripture. Joseph's brothers were consumed by jealousy, resentment, and bitterness. What began as hurt feelings eventually led them to throw Joseph into a pit and sell him into slavery.

This story reminds us that family relationships can be complicated. Yet it also reminds us that God is greater than family dysfunction. Even when people make painful choices, God's plan is still at work.

Point 1

Families Are Made Up of Imperfect People

Scripture

Genesis 37:4 (NKJV)

"But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him."

Reflection

Joseph's family was far from perfect. Jacob showed favoritism, Joseph lacked wisdom in how he shared his dreams, and his brothers allowed jealousy to control their hearts.

Every family has people who don't always get it right. Every family has people who make mistakes, say the wrong things, and sometimes disappoint one another. When we expect perfection from imperfect people, we often create unnecessary frustration and hurt.

Reflection Questions

Am I focusing more on a person's mistakes than on their strengths?

How can I extend grace to members of my family?

Am I becoming frustrated because someone isn't meeting my expectations?

This Week's Application

Give family members room to grow.

Choose grace over unrealistic expectations.

Remember that God works through imperfect people.

Point 2

We Shouldn't Allow Bitter Feelings to Grow

Scripture

Genesis 37:11 (NKJV)

"And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind."

Reflection

The brothers' jealousy did not remain a feeling. It grew into bitterness, and bitterness eventually led to harmful actions.

When hurt, jealousy, resentment, or anger go unchecked, they rarely stay small. What begins in the heart often shows up in our words, attitudes, and actions.

Reflection Questions

Is there any bitterness growing in my heart?

Am I holding on to hurt that God wants me to release?

Is there someone I need to forgive?

This Week's Application

Bring your hurt to God in prayer.

Address conflict before resentment grows.

Choose forgiveness over bitterness.

Point 3

The Pit Is Not the End

Scripture

Genesis 37:24 (NKJV)

"Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it."

Reflection

For Joseph, the pit looked like the end of the story. He had been betrayed by his brothers, abandoned, and left without hope. Yet God was not finished.

Sometimes life places us in situations that feel like the pit. We find ourselves in moments of disappointment, betrayal, loss, or uncertainty. But the pit is not the end. God's purpose is greater than our present circumstances.

Reflection Questions

What pit am I facing right now?

Am I focusing more on the pit or on God's promises?

Do I trust that God is still working even when I cannot see it?

This Week's Application

Keep trusting God in difficult seasons.

Refuse to let your current situation define your future.

Remember that God is still writing your story.

Living It Out This Week

Extend grace when family members fall short.

Refuse to let bitterness take root.

Trust God when life feels like a pit.

Pastoral Encouragement

Life has a way of bringing unexpected disappointments, and sometimes people can place us in situations that feel like a pit. We may feel overlooked, rejected, misunderstood, or hurt by those closest to us. Yet the story of Joseph reminds us that what others do to us cannot stop what God has planned for us. His brothers placed him in a pit, but they could not cancel God's purpose for his life. The pit was part of the journey, but it was not the destination. The same is true for you. Whatever setback, disappointment, or challenge you may be facing today, remember that God's promises are still true. What God has spoken over your life is greater than your present circumstances. Keep trusting Him, keep moving forward, and keep believing. The pit is not the end of your story. God is still working, and what He promised will still come to pass.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for extending grace to us when we don't always get it right. Help us extend that same grace to our families. Guard our hearts against bitterness and teach us to trust You in difficult seasons. Remind us that no pit is deeper than Your purpose and that You are still working, even when we cannot see it. In Jesus' name, Amen.