

## “When Dreams Don’t Make Sense”

South Sub Church | June 7, 2026 | Devotionals from Genesis 37:1-11

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### Day 1

### Living in the Tension of Family

#### Read: Genesis 37:1–4

Joseph grew up in a complicated family. His father, Jacob, clearly loved him more than his brothers. He even gave Joseph a special robe to show it. The brothers noticed—and they hated him for it. This story reminds us that favoritism and comparison can deeply wound relationships. Most people know what it feels like to be overlooked, less appreciated, or treated unfairly. Families, workplaces, friendships, and even churches can carry hidden tension when comparison takes root. Joseph did not create all the dysfunction around him, but he still had to live inside it. That is true for many of us. Sometimes we inherit broken dynamics we never asked for. Yet even in messy families, God is still working.

This passage is important because it shows that the Bible is honest. God’s people were not perfect people. Scripture does not hide jealousy, hurt, or family conflict. Instead, it shows how God works through imperfect people and painful situations. This passage is also a reminder to examine the subtle ways favoritism can still shape our hearts. Who do we naturally value more? Who do we overlook? Are we unintentionally creating division through comparison? Jesus invites us into a different way of living—a way marked by humility, honor, and love.

Today, ask God to reveal any jealousy, resentment, or favoritism living in your heart. Healing often begins when we are honest about what is there.

#### Reflection Questions:

- Where do I struggle with comparison?
- Is there a relationship where resentment has quietly grown?
- How can I reflect the equal love of Christ to people around me today?

**Prayer:** Lord, help me love people without comparison or favoritism. Heal the places in my heart shaped by jealousy or insecurity. Teach me to see others the way You see them. Amen.

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### Day 2

### When Pride Speaks Too Loudly

#### Read: Genesis 37:5–8

Joseph had a dream from God. In the dream, his brothers’ bundles of grain bowed down to his. But instead of handling the dream with wisdom and humility, Joseph immediately told his brothers—and it only increased their anger. There is a difference between receiving something from God and knowing how to carry it well. Joseph may have been young and excited, but his words lacked sensitivity. Sometimes we can be so focused on what God is doing in *us* that we forget how our attitude affects others.

Many people today struggle with wanting to be seen, noticed, or validated. Social media has trained us to announce everything immediately. But God often grows His work quietly before He displays it publicly.

This passage teaches that God can speak to ordinary people. But it also teaches that maturity matters. Having potential is not the same thing as having character. Joseph’s early arrogance can feel familiar. We may not brag openly, but pride can still show up subtly—in our opinions, our need to be right, or our desire for recognition.

God often develops humility before He fulfills calling. Sometimes the greatest spiritual growth happens in the hidden seasons where nobody applauds us.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Do I need recognition from others to feel valuable?
- Have I confused gifting with maturity?
- Where might God be teaching me humility right now?

**Prayer:** God, protect me from pride. Teach me humility and wisdom. Help me care more about becoming like Christ than being noticed by others. Amen.

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**Day 3**

**God Speaks Before We Understand**

**Read: Genesis 37:5–7**

Joseph's dream did not make sense yet. He could not see the years of hardship, waiting, betrayal, and growth that would come before the dream was fulfilled. Often, God gives direction long before He gives explanation. That can be frustrating. We want clear timelines, easy answers, and immediate understanding. But God usually works differently. He forms our character while He unfolds His plan.

This is encouraging: God is active even when life feels confusing. Joseph's story reminds us that God's silence is not absence. Even when circumstances look painful, God may still be leading. The passage reminds us not to despise the unfinished parts of our story. We may know promises from God that still feel far away. We may carry prayers that seem unanswered.

But Genesis teaches us that God works slowly, deeply, and faithfully. Joseph could not see that the pit, the prison, and the waiting room were all preparing him for the palace. Sometimes we want God to remove the difficult season, while God wants to use it to shape us. Trust is often built in the gap between promise and fulfillment.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Where do I feel confused about God's timing?
- What might God be forming in me during this season?
- Can I trust God even when I do not understand?

**Prayer:** Father, help me trust You when life feels unfinished. Give me patience while You shape my heart. Teach me to believe that You are still working, even when I cannot see it clearly. Amen.

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**Day 4**

**The Danger of Resentment**

**Read: Genesis 37:4, 11**

Joseph's brothers did not simply dislike him—they allowed jealousy to grow into bitterness. Verse 11 says they were jealous of him. That jealousy eventually led them toward terrible choices. Resentment rarely stays small. When hurt goes unchecked, it begins shaping the way we see people. We assume the worst. We replay offenses. We quietly celebrate failures. Over time, bitterness hardens the heart. Most people do not wake up wanting to become bitter. It usually grows slowly through unresolved pain. This passage invites us to confront resentment early before it takes deeper root.

This story feels deeply human. Everyone has experienced jealousy or emotional wounds. The Bible speaks

honestly to those realities instead of pretending they do not exist. For mature believers, this passage is a warning. It is possible to stay around spiritual things while quietly nurturing bitterness inside. We can attend church, read Scripture, and still carry unresolved anger toward people.

Jesus consistently calls His followers toward forgiveness, freedom, and soft hearts. Bitterness traps us in the past. Forgiveness opens us to healing. Forgiveness does not mean pretending pain was acceptable. It means refusing to let pain control your heart any longer.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Is there someone I secretly resent?
- What hurt have I allowed to stay unresolved?
- What would it look like to surrender that bitterness to God?

**Prayer:** Jesus, search my heart. Reveal any bitterness or jealousy hiding in me. Help me forgive the people who have hurt me, and free me from resentment. Amen.

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**Day 5**

**God's Presence in Imperfect People**

**Read: Genesis 37:1–11**

One surprising truth about Genesis is this: almost nobody in the story looks spiritually impressive. Jacob shows favoritism. Joseph lacks wisdom. The brothers are jealous and angry. The family is fractured and unhealthy. Yet God is still present. This matters because many people assume God only works through polished, perfect lives. But the Bible tells a different story. God works through weakness, immaturity, failure, and broken families. That does not excuse sin—but it does reveal grace.

This passage offers hope. You do not have to have a perfect past for God to work in your life. God meets people in the middle of their mess. The passage also reminds us to stay humble. Spiritual maturity is not pretending we have everything together. It is learning to depend more deeply on God's grace.

Joseph's story is ultimately not about a perfect man—it is about a faithful God. And that same God still works patiently in us today. Maybe your life feels messy right now. Maybe relationships are strained. Maybe you feel immature in your faith or disappointed in yourself. Genesis reminds us that God is not intimidated by unfinished people. He is still writing the story.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Where do I feel "unfinished" right now?
- Have I believed the lie that God only uses perfect people?
- How have I experienced God's grace in my weaknesses?

**Prayer:** God, thank You for meeting me in my imperfections. Help me trust that Your grace is greater than my failures. Continue shaping my life for Your purposes. Amen.