South Sub Church June 7, 2026

"Receive, Forgive and Restore"

Genesis 37:12-36 [verses 12-14 (NLT) listed]

Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem. [13] When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them." "I'm ready to go," Joseph replied. [14] "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

Sermon Summary:

Life doesn't always make sense in the moment. Betrayal, disappointment, temptation, loss, and waiting can leave us wondering where God is in the middle of it all. Yet the story of Joseph reminds us that even when all seems lost, God is still working behind the scenes - preparing us for purpose and revealing His greater plan. Join us as we walk through one of the most powerful stories in Scripture and discover how God can use every season of life to shape something bigger than we can see.

Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. Have you ever been betrayed or disappointed by someone close to you?
2. What's the farthest you've ever traveled for work or family?
3. What's one difficult family conflict you've witnessed or experienced?
4. Have you ever had to make a hard decision under pressure?
5. What helps you keep going when life feels unfair?

Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. Where were Joseph's brothers grazing their flocks?
2. Why did Jacob send Joseph to his brothers?
3. Who redirected Joseph toward Dothan?
4. What did Joseph's brothers plan to do when they saw him coming?
5. Which brother suggested not killing Joseph?
6. What did the brothers do with Joseph before selling him?
7. To whom did the brothers sell Joseph?

8. How much silver did they receive for Joseph?
9. What did the brothers use to deceive Jacob?
10. How did Jacob react when he believed Joseph was dead?

Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. What motivated the brothers to hate Joseph so intensely?
2. Why might Reuben have wanted to rescue Joseph secretly?
3. What does Judah's suggestion to sell Joseph reveal about the brothers' hearts?
4. How does this passage demonstrate the destructive power of jealousy and bitterness?
5. In what ways can God still work through evil actions and painful circumstances?

Application questions (life response):

1. How do you normally respond when you are deeply hurt by others?
2. Are there unresolved conflicts or bitterness you need to address?
3. How can you choose integrity even when others are acting wrongly?
4. What helps you trust God when circumstances seem unfair or painful?
5. How can you guard your heart against resentment and envy?