THE CO-OP • MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

# When Did You Realize Every Family Has Problems?

Episode 25 | Released Oct 7 | Discussion: Tuesday, October 13

## READING 1

**Read Genesis 37:3–4**

*Commentary*

*Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons and made him a robe of many colors. The brothers saw the favoritism and hated him. Favoritism is an ancient family poison. Scripture does not hide the dysfunction even in the covenant family.*

**1.** What caused the conflict in Joseph's family according to these verses?

**2.** Why do you think God includes stories of family brokenness in Scripture instead of only ideal families?

**3.** How does favoritism damage a family?

## READING 2

**Read Genesis 37:18–24**

*Commentary*

*The brothers conspire to kill Joseph, then settle for throwing him into a pit. Family hatred can escalate quickly from resentment to active harm. The deeper reading sees how severely sin fractures the home.*

**4.** How far does the conflict in this family go?

**5.** What does this teach us about the potential depth of family brokenness?

**6.** How do unspoken resentments grow into something destructive?

## READING 3

**Read Genesis 50:19–21**

*Commentary*

*Years later Joseph tells his brothers, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." God can redeem even the deepest family wounds, but redemption does not deny the evil that occurred. It overrules it for a larger purpose.*

**7.** How does Joseph interpret the wrong done to him by his family?

**8.** When did you realize every family has problems? How has that affected how you view your own?

**9.** What is one way you can move toward grace or healing in a family relationship this week?