

# { Dinnertime Devotionals }



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**Weekly Theme:** Joseph: Part 3

**Verse #1:** Genesis 37:25

(I use the ESV Bible for these devotionals. Questions are based on that text.)

**All Ages Discussion Starter:** Quick review—at the end of last week Joseph had been tossed in a pit by his brothers instead of being killed.

How callas do you think the brothers were that they could sit and eat as Joseph screamed for help and mercy in a nearby pit?

**Verse #2:** Genesis 37:26-27

**All Age Discussion Starter:** For most of us, it is hard to even fathom selling someone into slavery, let alone our own family member. What do you think life was like for someone who was sold into slavery with a traveling band of traders? There are two phrases in this text that really stand out to me in this passage - “let not our hand be upon him, for is our brother, our own flesh” and “his brothers listened to him.” They knew exactly what they were doing and no one stood up for their own flesh. Chilling.

**Verse #3:** Genesis 37:28

**All Age Discussion Starter:** Do you think for a moment that Joseph might have hoped that his brothers had come to their senses and were lifting him up out of the pit to rescue him? Can you imagine the crushing disappointment when he saw the traders and realized he had been sold as a slave. It is worth noting that 20 shekels of silver was the price that would have been paid for a crippled slave. They thought so little of Joseph that they weren’t even willing to ask a fair asking price for this able bodied young man.

**Verse #4:** Genesis 37:29-30

**All Age Discussion Starter:** The text doesn’t indicate where Reuben was during these events but we can surmise he was out tending the flock. His honest heartbreak is evident as he tears his clothes. Why do you think Reuben took this event so hard? As the eldest of the brothers it was his responsibility to look after all of them. His heartbreak is evident in the statement “where shall I go?” We often might feel this way in life and need to recognize where we should go in life when things during good times and bad.

**Verse #5:** Genesis 37:31-36

**All Age Discussion Starter:** The brothers cover up their illicit decision by fooling their father with an elaborate ruse. Was Jacob fooled by the blood soaked robe? What do you think was going through the minds of all the brothers as they “rose up to comfort” their father. The final verse in this chapter sets the stage for the next phase of Joseph’s life as he is sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh in Egypt. More next week...