

## “FAMILY TIES”

Genesis 30-50

Series: “Our Times are in  
His Hands”

Message #1

July 3, 2011  
Reformation Fellowship

EARLY FAMILY LIFE OF JOSEPH...

A FEW LESSONS FROM JOSEPH...

1. He came from a dysfunctional family...but every family is dysfunctional, because every family is filled with sinners in need of grace.

A dysfunctional background does not destine people to disaster.

2. Joseph made it through his tough childhood not because he's so special, but because God is special.

3. Romans 8:28 is worth hanging on to.

*“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* (NASB)

## “BROTHERLY LOVE-LESSNESS”

Genesis 37:1-11

Series: “Our Times are in  
His Hands”  
Message #2

July 10, 2011  
Reformation Fellowship

### INTRO

The story of George.

### FAMILY FEUD (VS. 1-11)

1. A family with wealth. (vs. 1-2)

Simple take-away #1: *Family wealth does not guarantee family harmony.*

2. A family with favoritism. (vs. 3-4)

Simple take-away #2: *Family favoritism is a foolishness that can lead to fury.*

3. The dream sequence. (vs. 5-10)

Question: Is it the norm for God to communicate with His people through dreams?

4. A family with jealousy (v. 11)

Simple take-away #3: *Jealousy is terribly destructive.*

- a. Proverbs 14:30: “A heart of peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”
- b. Examples
- c. Why would we become jealous?
  1. Our culture encourages it.
  2. Our nature enjoys it.
  3. Our circumstances enable it.
- d. Is there hope?
  1. God at work.
  2. God is running the show.

### WRAP UP STORY

## **“The Dreamer’s Nightmare”**

Genesis 37:12-35

Series: “Our Times are in  
His Hands”  
Message #3

July 17, 2011  
Reformation Fellowship

### **INTRO**

### **CATCH UP CONTEXT**

Jealousy (envy) is common because:

Our culture encourages it...

Our nature enjoys it...

Our circumstances enable it...

### **STORY TO HEAR**

Sent (vs. 12-17)

Slammed (vs. 18-24)

Sold (vs. 25-28)

Saddened (vs. 29-35)

### **POINTS TO PONDER**

1. *What jealousy can do.*

Take home encouragement: By God’ grace...  
...may we resist jealousy.

2. *What God does.*

“And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result...” Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

Take home encouragement: By God’s grace...  
...may we resist despair.

### **WRAP UP**

## AN UNWANTED TRIP WITH UNEXPECTED RESULTS

Genesis 37:36 and 39:1-6

Series: "Our Times are in  
His Hands"  
Message #4

July 24, 2011  
Reformation Fellowship

**INTRO:** Trips

### JOSEPH WAS PROTECTED (37:36)

A side trip: Was it Midianites or Ishmaelites, and does it matter?  
Does it matter if the Bible is without errors?

Is 'limited inerrancy' (there are errors in the Bible) a problem?

1. If we start with a position that there are errors, why would we trust **any** portion of Scripture as being true?
2. If we say there are errors, if only in small things, why stop there?
3. Shift of authority----from scripture to us.
4. History and science, "faith and practice"

### JOSEPH WAS PROSPERED (39:1-4a)

### JOSEPH WAS PROMOTED (39:4-6)

## SO WHAT? LESSONS FROM EGYPT

### Precious Provision

1. *Joseph's God – our God – sometimes protects us from, but more often protects us in, life's tough circumstances...  
...so may we endure.*

### Unpredictable Providence

2. *Joseph's God sometimes prospers faithful followers, and sometimes doesn't...  
...so may we not presume or be ungrateful.*

### Complete Panorama

3. *Joseph's God reveals realities throughout all of Scripture...  
...so may we pay attention.*

### Unparalleled Perspective

4. *Only by knowing and trusting God and Scripture can anyone have perspective on life's ups and downs – prosperity and adversity - ...  
...so may we embrace God and Scripture.*

## WRAP UP

## **“RESISTING WRONG”**

Genesis 39:6-12

Series: “Our Times are in  
His Hands”  
Message #5

July 31, 2011  
Reformation Fellowship

### **INTRO**

War

### **JOSEPH’S POWERFUL TEMPTATION AND**

### **JOSEPH’S POWERFUL RESISTANCE** vs. 6-12

### **C-O-U-R-A-G-E**

1. **Countercultural**  
In our culture, sexual purity is scorned.
2. **Observe** biblical teaching.
  - (a) God made us. God loves us. God knows what’s best for us.
  - (b) Analogy
  - (c) Application: Other temptations...
3. **Universal** to be tempted, but being tempted is not unfaithfulness; it is not displeasing to God.

4. **Resist**
  - (a) Joseph was enticed repeatedly, and he could have rationalized.
  - (b) Decide ahead of time, resolve beforehand.
5. **A is: an amoral atmosphere** is no excuse.
6. **God** is the reference point for Joseph’s life.
7. **Enjoy** sexuality within marriage.

### **WHAT IF?**

- (a) God forgives those who are truly repentant.
- (b) Caution

### **WRAP UP**