

A When your family is not perfect.

- ❖ Conflicts had been common at Joseph's family for generations. In his grand-father's time (Abraham), there was conflict between Sarah and Hagar. Isaac favored Esau but Rebecca favored Jacob. Jacob married two women who were rivals for the rest of his life.
- ❖ About Joseph's brothers... Ruben slept with his stepmother, Judah with his daughter-in-law, and Simeon and Levi killed everyone at a village.
- ❖ However, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:8, 20, 21). They struggled with their family issues, but they learned about faith, love, and trust in God.

B When you begin from scratch.

- ❖ Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob (Genesis 37:3). After some time, his brothers hated him so much that they wanted him dead (Genesis 37:4-5, 19-20).
- ❖ When he was 17 years old, his brothers sold him as a slave. He could only watch the tents of his family growing smaller as he was beginning his travel to Egypt.
- ❖ However, he recalled the lessons he had learned from his family about trusting God. He did not lose heart. He decided to fully trust God and to do His will.
- ❖ Since that moment, that decision led every subsequent decision in his life. We might have learned about God at home, but trusting Him and remaining faithful is a personal decision.

C When you are a nobody.

- ❖ Joseph was not the favorite one anymore. He was a nobody, an invisible slave. His self-esteem could have plummeted easily.
- ❖ Joseph's self-esteem was not based on what others thought about him, but on his worth to God. How does God look at us?
 - God looks at each of us with glasses tinted with grace. He sees us now like we will be when live forever with Him. (Isaiah 43:1; 1 John 3:1).

D When your relationships are troublesome.

- ❖ God blessed Joseph so he could find favor in Potiphar's sight. After some time, he was overseeing all the properties of his master. Everything went smoothly, but a conflict between Joseph and the wife of his master arose.
- ❖ Potiphar's wife used to get everything she wanted, and she wanted Joseph. If Joseph did not satisfy her craving, he could be in big trouble.
- ❖ He always applied the biblical principles he had learned (Genesis 39:9). He treated everyone with love and kindness, but God was always first. We must never please someone if that involves transgressing one of God's commandments.

E When you are facing new challenges.

- ❖ Joseph still trusted God at prison. He applied God's principles to his relationships. Soon, all the prisoners were under his care.
- ❖ Relationships at prison were not easy, but Joseph took care of everyone. He immediately noticed two prisoners were quite uneasy: the butler and the baker (Genesis 40:6-7). He also took advantage of the opportunity and asked the butler for help.
- ❖ We live in a cosmic conflict. Satan is trying to break our relationship with God and our neighbors. We must cling to God even more when our relationships with others become complicated.