**Family Secrets – Gen. 37:3**

Did you grow up in a family where there were family favorites?

Were you a favorite one of your father or mother?

Are your relationships with your brothers and sister affected because of family favoritism?

Do you hate your brothers and sisters?

Are you angry with your parents?

**Focal Truth: Joseph’s brothers hated him because of Jacob’s favorite love for Joseph**

**Observations**

1. **Jacob loved Joseph more than all his sons – 37:3**

*Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a varicolored tunic*

1. Joseph gave his father a bad report about his brothers – 37:2
2. **Favoritism was a family secret among Abraham’s family**

G. 25:8 – Isaac loved Esau – Rebekah loved Jacob

1. He loved him more than all his children

*Joseph & Benjamin were the children of his old age – He favored the children from Rachel*

1. He loved him as the child of his old age

Rachel was barren for many years – gave birth to Joseph in their old age

Gen. 30:23 – *she conceived and bore a son and said, God has taken away my reproach*

1. He made him a custom tunic and did not make his other sons a tunic

**The special coat gave Joseph special status among the children**

**Consider – the characteristics of family favoritism**

1. **Special time** for one child more than others
2. **Special praise** for one child more than others
3. **Special gifts** for one child more than others
4. **Special attention** for one child more than others

*Pr. 28:21 – to show partiality is not good*

1. **Jacob’s sons saw his favorite love for Joseph – 37:4**

*His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers;*

**Consider**

1. Children see & hear more than parents think they do
2. Children desire love & acceptance from their parents
3. Children who feel rejected develop bitterness – Esau

***“Do you not have a blessing for me, even me father? “***

1. **Jacob’s favorite love for Joseph caused his brothers to hate him – 37:4**

*and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms*

1. Joseph’s brothers hated him – 37:4
2. Joseph’s brothers could not speak to him on friendly terms – 37:4
3. Joseph’s brothers hated his words and dreams – 37:5,8

*They hated him even more – 37:5*

*They hated him even more for his dreams and for his words – 37:8*

**Consider**

1. Hatred reveals hidden anger toward someone who has hurt them
2. Hatred is a bitter, toxic emotion that produces hurtful actions to those who have hurt them
3. Joseph’s brothers hated him – yet their real hatred was toward their father
4. **Joseph’s brothers were jealous of the favored son – 37:11**

*His brothers were jealous of him*

1. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of his **status as the loved one**
2. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of his **recognition as the special one**
3. Joseph’s brother were jealous of his **acceptance as the favored son**

**Consider**

1. Pr. 6:34 – *Jealousy enraged a man, he will not spare in the day of vengeance*
2. Pr. 27:4 – *Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*
3. James 3:16 – *where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing*
4. Mal. 4:6 – *He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers….*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Family favoritism produces regret & broken family relationships**
2. **Showing family favoritism is sin** – James 2:9 – *if you show partiality, you are committing sin*
3. ***A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city – Pr. 18:19***
4. **Forgive your parents for their favoritism & love your brothers and sister like Jesus loves you**

*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with malice, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgive you – Eph. 4:31 -32*