

**DREAMS AND DETOURS**  
*Lessons from the Life of Joseph*

**HOW DID I GET IN THIS PIT?**

Genesis 37:12-36

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*So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the varicolored tunic that was on him; and they took him and threw him into the pit.*

*Genesis 37:23-24*

**What are we to do when we find ourselves in a deep, dark pit?**

**1. Take a long look at yourself.**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24*

A. What did I do to bring about this pitiful situation?

*Show me how I have erred. Job 6:24*

B. What shall I do about this pitiful situation?

**2. Take a long look at the situation.**

A. Family dysfunction produces family disaster.

1. Dads cannot be passive.

*And it came about while Israel was dwelling in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard of it. Genesis 35:22*

2. Parents cannot play favorites.

*Joseph was born at a time when his father Israel was very old, so Israel loved him more than he loved his other sons. Jacob gave him a special coat, which was long and very beautiful. Genesis 37:3 ERV*

B. Jealousy, bitterness, and hatred produce the worst of evils.

*For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. James 3:16*

### 3. Take a long look at the Lord.

#### A. Remember that God is good, and He loves you.

*And all the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, saying, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting." 2 Chronicles 7:3*

#### B. Remember that God is in charge, and He has a plan.

*And Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, Pharaoh's officer, the captain of the bodyguard. Genesis 37:27-28, 36*

**In the depths of your pit, will you trust God?**