

FROM PIT TO PROVIDENCE

GENESIS 37:1-36

Sunday, May 4, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Joseph’s descent from **FAVOR** (37:1-11)

avored yet hated 38:1-4 James 2:1-4; Deuteronomy 1:17; Romans 2:11

dreams & jealousy 38:5-11 Galatians 5:26; Proverbs 27:4

to betrayal and **SUFFERING** (37:12-28)

jealousy fuels cruelty Proverbs 6:34; Ephesians 4:31-32; Romans 12:15

pit of despair Psalm 40:1-2; Lamentations 3:55-57; 2 Corinthains 1:8-9

⬆ teaches us to **TRUST** God’s providence through life’s **REVERSALS**. (37:29-36)

setback Psalm 34:18; John 16:20; Lamentations 3:31-33

⬇ **setup** Romans 8:28; Isaiah 55:8–9; Philippians 1:12–13

PART
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We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Text us at **833-271-8805**.
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, “**Pray for...**” followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever’s going on and someone will be in touch via text.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here’s a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

What’s a time you had a big plan or dream that hit an unexpected snag, like a canceled trip or a delayed goal? Or that was just plain reversed on you?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn’t gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. **Read Genesis 37:1-36.** (Consider reading it from a translation like the NIV or a paraphrase like the Message to get a different feel of the narrative.) Then take some time to review your message notes. Looking back, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you this week? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
2. How did Jacob’s favoritism toward Joseph (**Genesis 37:3-4**) contribute to family conflict?
 - Where have you seen favoritism create division in your own life (e.g., family, work, or church)?
 - What steps can we take to avoid showing partiality or envying those who seem favored? Is it ever wise to be partial?
 - Sometimes—especially in moments of insecurity—we might interpret close friendships that we’re not “in” on as someone showing favoritism against us. So what’s the difference between partiality and friendship?
3. In **Genesis 37:5-11, 18-20**, jealousy drives Joseph’s brothers from hatred to a cruel plot. **Read Proverbs 27:4 and Galatians 5:19-21, 26.** How do these scriptures shed light on the brothers’ actions, and what do they teach us about guarding against jealousy in our hearts?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more* **than** you consume!

WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week’s message.

Word Find: Romans 8:31-37 (NirV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³¹ What should we say **then**? Since God is on our **side**, who can be against us? ³² God did not **spare** his own Son. He **gave** him up for us all. **Then** won't he **also freely give us everything else**? ³³ Who can **bring** any **charge** against God's **chosen ones**? God **makes** us **right** with himself. ³⁴ Who can **sentence** us to **death**? **Christ Jesus** is at the **right hand** of God and is **also praying** for us. He **died**. **More** than that, he was **raised** to **life**. ³⁵ Who can **separate** us from **Christ's love**? Can **trouble** or **hard times** or harm or hunger? Can nakedness or danger or war? ³⁶ It is written, "Because of you, we face **death** all day long. We are considered as sheep to be killed." ³⁷ No! In all these things we will do even **more** than win! We owe it all to **Christ**, who has **loved** us.

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life groups Study Guide (continued)

4.

Joseph's betrayal and descent into the pit (**Genesis 37:23-25**) marked a point of despair for him. If you're willing, share a time when you felt in a 'pit'—betrayed, abandoned, or hopeless.
 - How did you navigate that season?
 - What helped you hold onto faith despite the pain?
5.

In **Genesis 37** there was not only sorrow and setback for Joseph, but for Jacob, too—and even Reuben to a degree. **Read Psalm 34:18** and **John 16:20**.
 - How do these verses offer comfort in our own setbacks?
 - How can they help us trust God when life feels hopeless, as it likely was for Joseph and Jacob?
6.

In **Genesis 37:36**, Joseph's sale to Potiphar seems like further suffering—and would be to some degree—but it also became God's setup to carryout his good plan. Reflect on a setback in your life that later revealed God's providence (e.g., a closed door leading to a better opportunity). If you're willing, share it with your group.
 - How can we cultivate trust in God's "*Meanwhile...*" moments when His plan is unclear?

Taking it Home

7.

Pastor Josh ended the sermon not by discounting the hardship of our setbacks and sufferings, but by encouraging us to trust God's providence in the midst of them. — What makes trusting God difficult during those reversals, and what practical steps can you take this week to choose trust, even when the future is uncertain?
 - Consider some Spiritual Habits you could practice like prayer, journaling, etc. Then brainstorm specific actions (e.g., memorizing Romans 8:28, sharing prayer requests) and commit as a group to pursuing one of them this week. v(Be sure to also follow up on it the next time you meet!)

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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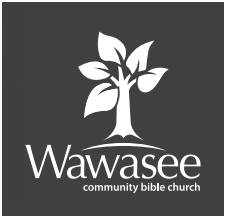
REDEMPTION RISING

Sunday, May 4, 2025

PART 1

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