

# Life Group Discussion Guide

*HATRED & JEALOUSY IS A SLIPPERY SLOPE*

*Genesis 37:17-36*

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FABRIC

## INTRODUCTION

Hatred may start out slow, but it can gain speed quickly. Its power grows and the damage it can cause expands. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and that spirit brought hatred.

The brothers plotted against Joseph. They planned to make his death appear as if "a ferocious animal devoured him." (Genesis 37:20) The plan took another turn when the brothers decided to sell him instead.

When the hatred and jealousy came to an end, it did not yield a sweet victory; rather it ended in bitterness and disappointment. His brothers' plots and hatred ended in crushing sadness and grief for their father.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell the group about a dumb decision you made out of anger that ended up increasing your frustration rather than taking some anger away.
2. Anger is not always a bad thing. What types of anger are good and appropriate? What kind of anger is dangerous and unhealthy?

## EVALUATE IT

1. Read Genesis 37:12-36. What was behind the ten brothers' desire to kill Joseph? Why did the brothers end up selling Joseph instead of killing him?
2. This family lived in close proximity and Jacob would have known how the brothers felt toward Joseph. What do you think Jacob should have done about the problem brewing between Joseph and his brothers?
3. Joseph's story is extreme, but what does it teach us about the consequences of hatred and anger that goes unchecked? What is a healthy way to deal with the anger we feel toward another person?
4. Remember, the original audience for Genesis 37 was the Exodus community of Israel. They are in the wilderness, waffling between following God towards the promised land or returning to slavery in Egypt. What significance might they find in this story?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How do you respond when you are betrayed by others? How about when it is someone who is close to you?
2. In what ways is Genesis 37 an encouragement to you when you experience rejection from others or when you find yourself in impossibly difficult circumstances?

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

“An eagle swooped to the ground one day, catching a weasel in its powerful talons. But when it flew away, its wings inexplicably went limp and it dropped to the ground like a lifeless doll. As it turned out, the weasel had bitten its attacker in mid-flight, killing the proud eagle as it flew. If we cling to an attitude of anger, it will, like the weasel, sink its teeth into us when we least expect it.”  
- Chuck Swindoll



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?  
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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