

SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

Questions to help us consider Sunday's passage all week long

When Faithfulness Leads to Hardship

October 18, 2026 | Genesis 37

MESSAGE AT A GLANCE

Genesis 37:1–4	A family divided by ruling desires
Genesis 37:5–11	Dreams that revealed God's plan
Genesis 37:12–28	An ordinary errand that changed everything
Genesis 37:29–36	A hopeless-looking chapter in an unfinished story

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Genesis 37 reminds us that God is faithfully accomplishing His purposes even when life seems to contradict His promises. Joseph was hated by his brothers, betrayed, and sold into slavery while fulfilling an ordinary responsibility. Yet God had not abandoned him or His promise. We cannot always understand what God is doing, but we can trust His character, obey His Word, and leave the outcomes with Him.

Key Points: We all have desires that compete in our heart to replace Christ. The sins of others cannot overthrow God's purposes. God works through ordinary responsibilities and painful circumstances. Faithfulness does not guarantee an easy life, but God remains faithful.

CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. What happens in your heart when you do not get what you want? Is there a desire for recognition, control, or comfort that has begun to rule you rather than Christ?
2. Have the sins or failures of someone else made it difficult for you to trust God? How can you respond faithfully without excusing their sin or your own?
3. What ordinary responsibility has God given you today? How can you be faithful in it even when obedience feels difficult or goes unnoticed?
4. Joseph could not see what God was accomplishing through his hardship. Where are you tempted to judge God's faithfulness by your circumstances rather than His promises?
5. Joseph's suffering helped preserve his family, but Jesus suffered to save sinners. How does the cross strengthen your trust in God when faithfulness leads to hardship?