

MODERNfamily

LOVE IS MESSY
September 27, 2015

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction**
- Two themes throughout this series.
- All the bible is about Jesus—from beginning to end. Jesus is the star of the show. He said, “follow Me”.
- Every family is messed up. Because of the fall, no one is immune to the effects of Adam and Eve.

- **Sometimes the hardest people to love are your own family members.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 37:3-4.**
- If you don’t surrender your hurts and pains to Jesus you’ll replicate them again in your life.
 - o Why is it easier to give other people advice?
 - o What does “having favorites” do in your family dynamics?
 - o Discuss the statement, “You never have the right to be a victim”.

- **Celebrate the gifts of others; jealousy is poison to the soul.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 37:5-8.**
- When your gifting goes beyond your maturity you’re looking for a train wreck to happen.
 - o How has social media exaggerated jealousy and envy?
 - o What happens when you compare yourself to others?
 - o How does “Inward—loving yourself correctly” and knowing your identity in Christ protect you from jealousy and envy?
 - o Do you celebrate others and their gifts and success?

- **Often those closest to us hurt us the most.**
- **Read and discuss Genesis 37:18-25a.**
 - o Are you holding anger or malice towards someone from the past?
 - o Discuss the statement, “What you love is what you become like, it’s what you worship”.
 - o Who are the Reuben’s in your life?

- **Read and discuss Genesis 37:31-34**
- Revenge makes you toxic.
- The same thing Israel did to his father Isaac his son’s did to him.
 - o Are you being warned by God to repent and end a particular cycle in your life?
 - o What are the continual habits in your life that you refuse to give to God? Give them up today.

How Do You Love When It Hurts So Bad?

1. **Remember, when life gives you lemons, let God make lemonade.**
 - **Read and discuss Genesis 9:-4.**
 - **Even though Joseph was in a bad situation, God was ready to make lemonade.**
 - o Discuss the statement, “The presence of pain doesn’t mean the absence of God’s presence”.
 - o When you suffer, do people see the kind of God you worship?
 - o Are you allowing God to make lemonade out of the lemons in your life? Share an example.

2. **Remember, keep your integrity by keeping your eyes on God.**
 - **Read and discuss Genesis 39:6b-7 and Genesis 39:9-10.**
 - o Discuss the statement, “When you sin against a person you sin against God”.
 - o How did Joseph respond to this situation? (HINT: Upward, Inward, Outward)

3. Remember, every set back is God's sovereign set up.

- **Read and discuss Genesis 39:20-22a.**
- Sovereign - a king who runs his kingdom
- God always wins even when you mess up.
- Omniscient God is all knowing.
- Omnipresent God is outside of time and space...he doesn't have a past or future...everything is now to God.
 - o Discuss the following statements:
 - o What you depend on you worship and what you worship you become like and reflect the one you worship.
 - o Just because bad things are happening doesn't mean you're doing bad things.
 - o Can you share challenges in your life where you trusted God's steadfast (hyssop, agape) love?

4. Remember, instead of seeking revenge, seek God and the good of others.

- **Read and discuss Genesis 40:1-4.**
- Don't let pain prevent you from seeking God's face and hearing His voice.
 - o How can pain in your life distract you from being God's heart, hands and feet?
 - o How does pain soften your heart so you are attentive to the pain of others?

5. Remember, there is purpose in the pain.

- **Read and discuss Genesis 45:1-9.**
- Pain moves us to depend on God more...then we worship Him and the more we worship Him the more we become like Him. (Recurring theme in this story)
 - o When was the last time you cried a cry of redemption?
 - o Are you approaching life from victory, or defeat?
 - o Discuss the statement, "No one is a victim when Christ is victorious".
 - o Is there someone in your life you need to forgive?
- **Jesus is the greater and true Joseph.**
- The story of Joseph is really about Jesus.
- We're reminded that God is a good, good Father.
 - o Compare Joseph's life journey to Jesus' life.
 - o Do you have the eyes to see Him, ears to hear Him, and a heart to humbly allow Him to transform you?

• **Soul-tattoo: Pray through these 5 points every day this week.**

• **Close in prayer.**