



MAKING A CHANGE - Joseph

Life is full of change. Sometimes, the changes we make are not good. However, don't forget the positive changes you have made. Let's check out a Biblical case study.

Genesis 37:1-5 - Jacob lived in the land where his father, Isaac, settled. Here is some family history. His 17-year-old son, Joseph, was tending the flocks with his brothers, sons of different mothers. He brought a bad report about them to his father, Jacob. Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any of the other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; Jacob made him a fancy coat of many colors. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than them, they hate him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers; they hated him more.

1. What behavior or attitude in Jacob's life would require a change?

2. What behavior or attitude in Joseph's life would require a change?

3. What behavior or attitude in the brothers' lives requires change?

4. How did Jacob's behavior affect Joseph? _____

5. How did Joseph's behavior affect his brothers? _____

6. How did the brothers' behavior affect:

a. Each other _____

b. Their father _____

c. Their mothers _____

d. Joseph _____

7. Y N Do we agree that life changes need to be made?

8. Y N Do you think change will do any good at this point?

9. Which change do you think would be the most important in the group?

Genesis 37:12-35 - The brothers went to feed their father's flocks - Jacob told Joseph to go see if all was well with the brothers - Joseph asked for directions - I am seeking my brothers; please tell me where they are feeding their flocks - When they saw him coming, they conspired to kill him - The oldest brother, Reuben, said they could not kill him; he said to throw him in a pit. They took his fancy coat and then threw him in a pit - then they sat down and ate a meal - they dipped the coat in blood and took it home to their father and lied that he was killed by a beast.

Genesis 42:21-24 - "We are guilty; when we sold him, he pleaded for mercy but we would not listen to him." Joseph overheard; he turned away and cried.

Genesis 50:19-20 - Do not be afraid, for I am in the place where God wants me. Years ago, you meant evil for me but God used it for good so that now I can protect and care for you. And he comforted them AND SPOKE KINDLY TO THEM.

10. What changes do you see in Joseph? _____

11. What change in attitude do you see in the brothers when they arrived in Egypt? _____
12. What do you think motivated the brothers to verbalize this change? YN Do you think their hearts were changed?
YN Were they just forced due to their fear?

Genesis 45:3-7 - "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into slavery and sent here to Egypt. Is my father still alive? Please come near to me. BUT NOW, do not be grieved or angry with yourselves; God sent me here to preserve life, to preserve our family."

13. The Bible does not record any intentional negative behavior about Joseph. If he had any issues with the brothers, do you see it in the verses above? YN
14. Humanly speaking, any man would wonder if God was still in control after going through what Joseph did.
Was God still in control of Joseph's life? YN
15. Explain why we do not have to have all the answers in our lives before we decide to make a change. It might even take faith.
- _____
- _____