Week #:	23	Text:	Genesis 12:1 – 35:15	Title:	Joseph's Family		
Songs:	Trust In You						
	El Shaddai						
	Days	of Elijah					
Extra:	A Comparison between Joseph and Jesus						
	WEDLIGHTING CODY						

"TRUSTING GOD" Lesson One: JOSEPH'S FAMILY HISTORY

To understand the life of Joseph, one must first look at his family history revealed in God's Word. After Noah, man started out fresh on the earth, but soon sin showed its ugly head again. God had to go to "Phase 3" of His Rescue Plan. Now God chose one man to bring about His plan, Abram. God chose Abram because He needed a man whose blood line was pure.

God made a covenant with Abraham back in Genesis 12:1-3:

Now ADONAI said to Avram (Abram), "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

This *covenant* was very significant and played a BIG part in Joseph's role in history. God was going to use the descendants of Abram to send the Messiah and through Him the world would know salvation. That salvation would not come about at all if all Abram's family were snuffed out by famine.

Abraham and Sarah did have a son named Isaac. Isaac then had twins (Esau and Jacob). Esau was the oldest and therefore the one who the covenant would go through. But, Jacob tricked his older brother into giving that up. Genesis 25:29-33 says, "²⁹ Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he *was* weary. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red *stew*, for I *am* weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. ³¹ But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." ³² And Esau said, "Look, I *am* about to die; so what *is* this birthright to me?" ³³ Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised *his* birthright."

Esau was also the one who would get the greater blessing from his father, Isaac. But, again, Jacob played the trickster. Genesis 27:1-4 says, "Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son...Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death. ³ Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me. ⁴ And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring *it* to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die." But, Rebekah was listening and she convinced Jacob to play the part of Esau to trick his father. She put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck and she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob. Jacob took this to his father, Isaac ate and then, "said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son." ²⁷ And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son *is* like the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed." Isaac gave the greater blessing to Jacob.

Jacob continued to resort to deception every time "the going got tough" right up until God changed his name from Jacob (that supplants or tricks) to Israel (who prevails with God). But, because Jacob sowed this seed, he also reaped the same thing. His father-in-law, Laban, tricked Jacob into marrying his older daughter, Leah, even though Jacob had contracted with him to win the hand of the younger daughter, Rachel. This one act set up many

repercussions that would plague Jacob for many years to come and set the stage for many problems for the descendants. It even sets the stage for the dysfunctional family Joseph grew up in.

Many families today are described as dysfunctional. It seems from scripture that Joseph grew up in a dysfunctional family, also. After Jacob had children of his own, and he had his own preferences. His first wife, Leah, was not the one Jacob loved, but God blessed her with children. Rachel, his second wife, was the one Jacob loved. But God closed her womb for many years. When God opened her womb, Joseph was born. Gen 30:23-24 says, "And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach: And she called his name Joseph; and said, The Lord shall add to me another son." The name Joseph means, "He will add". By naming him Joseph, Rachel was proclaiming her faith that God would bless her with another son and God did when she bore Benjamin.

Genesis 30: 22-43 says,

"Then God took note of Rachel, heeded her prayer and made her fertile. 23 She conceived, had a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." 24 She called him Yosef (Joseph) [may he add], saying, "May Adonai add to me another son."

25 After Rachel had given birth to Yosef (Joseph), Ya'akov (Jacob) said to Lavan (Laban), "Send me on my way, so that I can return to my own place, to my own country. 26 Let me take my wives, for whom I have served you, and my children; and let me go. You know very well how faithfully I have served you." 27 Lavan (Laban) answered him, "If you regard me favorably, then please listen: I have observed the signs that Adonai has blessed me on account of you. 28 Name your wages," he said; "I will pay them." 29 Ya'akov (Jacob) replied, "You know how faithfully I have served you and how your livestock have prospered under my care. 30 The few you had before I came have increased substantially; Adonai has blessed you wherever I went. But now, when will I provide for my own household?" 31 Lavan (Laban) said, "What should I give you?" "Nothing," answered Ya'akov (Jacob), "just do this one thing for me: once more I will pasture your flock and take care of it. 32 I will also go through the flock and pick out every speckled, spotted or brown sheep, and every speckled or spotted goat; these and their offspring will be my wages. 33 And I will let my integrity stand as witness against me in the future: when you come to look over the animals constituting my wages, every goat that isn't speckled or spotted and every sheep that isn't brown will count as stolen by me." 34 Lavan (Laban) replied, "As you have said, so be it."

35 That day Lavan (Laban) removed the male goats that were streaked or spotted and all the female goats that were speckled or spotted, every one with white on it, and all the brown sheep; turned them over to his sons; 36 and put three days' distance between himself and Ya'akov (Jacob). Ya'akov (Jacob) fed the rest of Lavan's (Laban's) flocks.

37 Ya'akov (Jacob) took fresh-cut branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and made white streaks on them by peeling off the bark. 38 Then he set the rods he had peeled upright in the watering troughs, so that the animals would see them when they came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, 39 the animals mated in sight of the rods and gave birth to streaked, speckled and spotted young. 40 Ya'akov (Jacob) divided the lambs and had the animals mate with the streaked and the brown in the flock of Lavan (Laban). He also kept his own livestock separate and did not have them mix with Lavan's (Laban's) flock. 41 Whenever the hardier animals came into heat, Ya'akov (Jacob) would set up the rods in the watering troughs; so that the animals would see them and conceive in front of them; 42 but he didn't set up the rods in front of the weaker animals. Thus the more feeble were Lavan's (Laban's) and the stronger Ya'akov's (Jacob's). 43 In this way the man became very rich and had large flocks, along with male and female slaves, camels and donkeys."

Genesis 35:9-15 says:

⁹ After Ya'akov (Jacob) arrived from Paddan-Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. ¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Ya'akov (Jacob), but you will be called Ya'akov (Jacob) no longer; your name will be Isra'el." Thus he named him Isra'el. ¹¹ God further said to him, "I am El Shaddai. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed a group of nations, will come from you; kings will be descended from you. ¹² Moreover, the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you." ¹³ Then God went up from him there where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ Ya'akov (Jacob) set up a standing-stone in the place where he had spoken with him, a stone pillar. Then he poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ Ya'akov (Jacob) called the place where God spoke with him Beit-El.

Genesis 37 says,

Ya'akov (Jacob) continued living in the land where his father had lived as a foreigner, the land of Kena'an.

² Here is the history of Ya'akov (Jacob). When Yosef (Joseph) was seventeen years old he used to pasture the flock with his brothers, even though he was still a boy. Once when he was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, he brought a bad report about them to their father. ³ Now Isra'el (Israel) loved Yosef (Joseph) the most of all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a long-sleeved robe.

This coat of colors (or pieces) was a long sleeved tunic, a mark of special honor; varicolored. The English Standard Version of the Bible says, "Robe of many colors". The Greek translation of the Old Testament – the Septuagint – called it a "coat of many colors" and that is what the King James Version says so that is what most people believe. All the text is trying to convey is that it was an expensive, one-of-a-kind robe. This special robe was an item of contention between Joseph and his half-brothers. Likewise, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you are covered in a robe of Righteousness bought by the blood of Jesus. This Righteous robe is an item of contention between you and your enemy, Satan.

Joseph was a forerunner of Jesus in many ways. I have a list of some of them attached. Joseph had three "coats" and so did Jesus. The "coat of many colors" was Joseph's first coat. Jesus was wrapped in "swaddling cloths" (cut-up priestly garments). Both were stained by blood—Joseph's when his brothers tried to fool their father and Jesus' when the priest sacrificed animals.

Joseph's second "cloak" was at Potiphar's house and Jesus' second "coat" was a seamless robe. Joseph's robe was torn off him by Potiphar's wife and Jesus' went to the solder who won the dice game.

Joseph's third robe was to declare him as co-ruler over all Egypt. Jesus' third robe is described in Revelation 19:11-16, "Next I saw heaven opened, and there before me was a white horse. Sitting on it was the one called Faithful and True, and it is in righteousness that he passes judgment and goes to battle. ¹² His eyes were like a fiery flame, and on his head were many royal crowns. And he had a name written which no one knew but himself. ¹³ He was wearing a robe that had been soaked in blood, and the name by which he is called is, "THE WORD OF GOD. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down nations — "He will rule them with a staff of iron." ¹⁶ It is he who treads the winepress from which flows the wine of the furious rage of ADONAI, God of heaven's armies. ¹⁶ And on his robe and on his thigh he has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.".

Family dynamics can be very complicated. Joseph's family dynamics could have been used as a basis for a modern day soap opera. Joseph's ten elder brothers hated him so much that they wouldn't even speak to him in a civil manner. This must have caused a great deal of tension on the home front.

⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they began to hate him and reached the point where they couldn't even talk with him in a civil manner.

If you have been *born of the Spirit (or born again)*, **YOU** can change of the way you think and not let *discouragement* reign in your life. This restructuring is called sanctification. Let's learn how Joseph dealt with this in his own life.

Philippians 4:8 puts it this way, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (KJV) This scripture is a REAL GOOD one to memorize and put into practice in your life.

Joseph lived before the written Word of God (or Torah), but Abraham passed down the oral Word of God to his son, Isaac. Then Isaac passed God's Word down to Jacob who passed it down to Joseph. By the time Joseph was sold into slavery, he had already memorized the first thirty-six chapters of Genesis. These oral principles sustained him through what he had to endure.

The book of Ezra is the account of the rebuilding of the Temple of God. In Ezra 4:4, we read, "Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build..." To reverse this situation, the Lord raised up two Prophets, Haggai and Zechariah, and two leaders, Zerubbabel and Jeshua. According to Haggai 1:4 & 9, the people were more focused on building their own houses, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ... 9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house." God knew that the people needed a fresh encounter with His Word to overcome any discouragement the enemy had sent their way. We, too, need a fresh encounter with God's Word when we are discouraged. When you focus on your own world and problems, the enemy can bring discouragement in like a flood. Isaiah 59:19 says, "So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him." (KJV)

Psalms 119 contains 176 verses and it reveals the Importance of God's Word. This psalm is an acrostic poem of twenty-two stanzas and has all twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Within a stanza, each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. Each stanza is eight verses long. If you meditate on one stanza a day, it will take you twenty-two days to complete Psalm 119. This can prove to be a powerful exercise that will have large benefits in your life.

Jesus told a parable about the Word of God emphasizing the importance of God's Word should be in our lives. Luke 8:4-15 says, "And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are

those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." In verses 9-15 Jesus then gives the interpretation of the parable. He says that the seed is the Word of God. God is the sower and sows good seed. The problem is not with the seed. The problem is with the ground upon which it falls. Jesus went on to tell what the different kinds of soil are. Reread this passage and ask yourself, "Which soil am I?"

There is hope for everyone. God says that He sends out His Word to perform and it performs what He sends it to do. Isaiah 55:10-11 says, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." The word for "breathed" here is the word "grace". So, what this is really saying is that God breathed all Scripture. All Scripture brings grace, because all scripture points to Jesus' grace and mercy for us by dying on the cross for our sins.

God expects His people to always respond to His Word. The Jewish people always make a commitment when they come to the God's Word. They believe that God's Word is alive and always should have some impact on their life. Hebrews 4:12" For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Before Jewish people read or listen to the Word, they say Deuteronomy 6:4-5: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." They call this the "shama" which is Hebrew for the first word in this passage (Hear or Listen)

A Comparison between Joseph and Jesus

by Jews for Jesus (From notes by Bill MacDonald)

Many Old Testament accounts of people and events tell of the immediate with a foreshadowing of that which is yet to come. For example, Moses told the Israelites of another Prophet, like him, who would come later and who would require the people's total allegiance and obedience; the Psalms describe the experiences of David; yet they also speak of David's Greater Son, the Messiah.

Perhaps one of the best known and loved Bible accounts, along with that of Noah's ark and David and Goliath, is the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. Joseph's life story affords many valuable lessons and applications; yet there is also a prophetic aspect to the account that foreshadows the Messiah himself. There are many fascinating parallels (more than 100) between Joseph, beloved son of Jacob, and Jesus, the Son of God who would arrive on the stage of human history centuries later. Here are just a representative few:

Parallel	Joseph	Jesus	
BELOVED OF HIS FATHER	Now Israel loved Joseph more than	This is my beloved Son, in whom I am	
	all his children (<u>Gen. 37:3a</u>).	well pleased (Matt. 3:17b).	
ENVIED AND HATED WITHOUT A	And when his brethren saw that their	the chief priests had delivered him	
CAUSE	father loved him more theyhated	for envy (Mark 15:10).< They hated	
	him (<u>Gen 37:4</u>).	me without a cause (<u>John 15:25b</u>).	
A ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND	he was the son of his [Jacob's] old	he [Messiah] shall grow up before himlike a root out of a dry ground	
A ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND	age (<u>Gen. 37:3b</u>).	(Isa. 53:2a).	
		ye [shall] seethe Son of Man sitting	
HE FORETOLD THAT ONE DAY HE	your sheaves stoodand made	on the right hand of power, and	
WOULD RULE	obeisance to my sheaf (<u>Gen. 37:7</u>).	coming in the clouds of heaven	
	, , ,	(<u>Matt. 26:64b</u>).	
ACCUSED OF BEING A DREAMER	And they said to one another,	they said, He is beside himself	
(beside himself, deluded)	Behold, this dreamer cometh (<u>Gen.</u>	(Mark 3:21b).	
	<u>37:19</u>).		
SENT BY THE FATHER TO SEEK THE	Gosee whether it be well with thy	I will send my beloved son (<u>Luke</u>	
BROTHERS' WELFARE	brethren (<u>Gen. 37:14a</u>).	<u>20:13b</u>).	
WENT WILLINGLY AND SOUGHT TILL	And Joseph went after his brethren,	Lo, I come, to do thy will, O God (Heb. 10:9b).< He came unto his	
HE FOUND THEM	and found them (<u>Gen. 37:17b</u>).	own (John 1:11a).	
		We will not have this man to reign	
	they conspired against him to slay	over us (<u>Luke 19:14b</u>).< But they	
REJECTED AND CONDEMNED TO DIE	him (<u>Gen. 37:18b</u>).	cried, saying, Crucify him! Crucify	
	,	him! (<u>Luke 23:21</u>).	
STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHING	they stripped Joseph out of his	And they stripped him (Matt.	
STRIFFED OF HIS CLOTHING	coatthat was on him (<u>Gen 37:23b</u>).	<u>27:28a</u>).	
THROWN INTO A PIT (alone,	And they took him, and cast him into	so shall the Son of man be three days	
forsaken)	a pit (<u>Gen. 37:24a</u>).	and three nights in the heart of the	
	they sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites	earth (<u>Matt. 12:40b</u>).	
SOLD FOR SILVER INTO THE HANDS	twenty pieces of silver; and they	and they bargained with him [Judas]	
OF GENTILES	brought Joseph into Egypt (Gen.	for thirty pieces of silver (Matt.	
0: 02:::::25	37:28b).	<u>26:15b</u>).	
		he rose again the third day	
RAISED FROM THE PIT	and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit (Gen. 37:28a).	according to the scriptures (<u>1 Cor.</u>	
		<u>15:4b</u>).	
	And Joseph was brought down to	I am among you as he that serveth	
BECAME A SERVANT	Egyptand he was in the house of his	(<u>Luke 22:27b</u>). <took him="" td="" the<="" upon=""></took>	
	master, the Egyptian (Gen. 39:1-2).	form of a servant (Phil. 2:7b).	
EVERYTHING HE DID PROSPERED	Andthe LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand (Gen. 39:3b).	and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand (<u>Isaiah 53:10b</u>).	
	to prosper in his hand (dell. 53.50).	For such an high priest was	
		fittingwho is holy, harmless,	
	The temptation by Potiphar's wife	undefiled, separate from	
RESISTED TEMPTATION	(Read <u>Gen. 39:7-12</u>).	sinners(<u>Heb. 7:26</u>).<[he) was in all	
		points tempted like as we are, yet	
		without sin (<u>Heb. 4:15b</u>).	
	The Hebrew servant, whom thou hast	At the last came two false witnesses,	
FALSELY ACCUSED	brought unto us, came in unto me to	And said (Matt. 26:60b, 61a).	
	mock me (<u>Gen. 39:17-18</u>).	,	

NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS	And Joseph's masterput him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound (Gen. 39:20a).	there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left (<u>Luke</u> 23:33).	
PROMISED DELIVERANCE TO A CONDEMNED MAN	Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee (Gen. 40:13).	Today shalt thou be with me in paradise (<u>Luke 23:43b</u>).	
FORETOLD THE FUTURE ACCURATELY	And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us (Gen. 41:13a).	Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he (John 13:19).	
PROVED TO BE A GREAT COUNSELLOR	Forasmuch as God hath shown thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art (<u>Gen. 41:39</u>).	and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor (<u>Isa. 9:6b</u>).	
PROMOTED TO HONOR AND GLORY AND GIVEN A NEW NAME	And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See I have set thee over all the land of Egypt (Gen. 41:41). (See also Gen. 41:45a.)	God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a new name which is above every name (Phil. 2:9).	
ALL PEOPLE COMMANDED TO BOW TO HIM	and they cried before him, Bow the knee (Gen. 41:43b).	That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (Phil. 2:10a).	
PROVIDED FOR ALL IN NEED	And all the countries cameto Joseph to buy grain (Gen. 41:57a).	I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger (John 6:35a).	
HIS PEOPLE DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM	And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him (Gen. 42:8).	Have I been such a long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me? (John 14:9a).< But their minds were blinded (2 Cor. 3:14a).	
HIS BROTHERS WERE TROUBLED WHEN THEY MET HIM	be not grieved nor angry with yourselves (Gen. 45:5a).v	They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mournand shall be in bitterness (Zech. 12:10b).	
ALLOWED HIS BROTHERS TO SUFFER A PERIOD OF TRIBULATION	Read <u>Gen. 42:6-44:34</u> .	it is even the time of Jacob's trouble (<u>Jer. 30:7b</u>).< For then shall be great tribulation (<u>Matt. 24:21a</u>).	
REVELATION AND RECONCILIATION	I am Josephwhom ye soldGod hath made me lord of allcomeunto me (Gen. 45:3b-9).	And so all Israel shall be saved;as it is writtenand shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Rom. 11:26).	
Parallel	Joseph	Jesus	
BELOVED OF HIS FATHER	Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children (Gen. 37:3a).	This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matt. 3:17b).	
ENVIED AND HATED WITHOUT A CAUSE	And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more theyhated him (Gen 37:4).	the chief priests had delivered him for envy (Mark 15:10).< They hated me without a cause (John 15:25b).	
A ROOT OUT OF DRY GROUND	he was the son of his [Jacob's] old age (Gen. 37:3b).	he [Messiah] shall grow up before himlike a root out of a dry ground (<u>Isa.</u> <u>53:2a</u>).	
HE FORETOLD THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD RULE	your sheaves stoodand made obeisance to my sheaf (<u>Gen. 37:7</u>).	ye [shall] seethe Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven (Matt. 26:64b).	