

Live by Choosing to Grow

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

Live by Choosing to Grow

Series: No Excuses

Sunday November 12, 2017

"The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity." Luke 8:12-14 NLT

"And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest." Luke 8:15 NLT

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." James 1:2-3 NLT

Start Living in the Present for the Future (not the past)

Two Ways I Can Choose to Grow

1. I Stop Blaming Others and Embrace the Challenge!

"The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."" Genesis 3:12 NLT

"Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."" Genesis 3:13 NLT

**When I Blame Others,
I Rob Myself of a Growth Opportunity!**

Joseph's Dysfunctional Family **His Grandfather**

"So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years."

Genesis 29:30 ESV

His Father

"Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe." Genesis 37:3 NLT

His Mother/Step-Mothers

Leah (Rachel's Older Sister)

"When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to have children, but Rachel could not conceive." Genesis 29:31 NLT

Rachael (Joseph's Mother)

"When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"

Genesis 30:1 ESV

Billah (Rachel's Handmaid)

"Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali."

Genesis 30:8 ESV

Zilpah (Leah's Handmaid)

"When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife." Genesis 30:9 ESV

Joseph's Dysfunctional Siblings (Birth Order)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Reuben (Leah) | 7. Gad (Zilpah) |
| 2. Simeon (Leah) | 8. Asher (Zilpah) |
| 3. Levi (Leah) | 9. Issachar (Leah) |
| 4. Judah (Leah) | 10. Zebulun (Leah) |
| 5. Dan (Billah) | 11. Joseph (Rachael) |
| 6. Naphtali (Billah) | 12. Benjamin (Rachael) |

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him."

Genesis 37:3-4 ESV

"They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him." Genesis 37:18 ESV

2. I Embrace the Challenge by Giving My Best for God!

Joseph's Response to Enslavement

"His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had."

Genesis 39:3-4 ESV

Joseph's Response to Success

"So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me.""

Genesis 39:6-7 ESV

Joseph's Response to Temptation

"And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her."

Genesis 39:10 ESV

Joseph's Response to being Falsely Accused

"And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed."

Genesis 39:22-23 ESV

I Must Become Better not Bitter!

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James 1:2-3 NLT

"And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest."

Luke 8:15 NLT