thrive
A HOPE WOMEN'S GATHERING

Persevering Faith: Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Lesson 2: Betrayed
Teacher: Erin Wells
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INTRODUCTION:

READING: Genesis 37:18-24 [NIV]

18 But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. 22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

TABLE STUDY:

1. How did the brothers refer to Joseph when they saw him coming? Why was this a negative for them?

2. What led the brothers to act this way toward their own brother Joseph?

3. What did Reuben do and why?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. Joseph's brothers allowed envy to lead to worse actions and more sins in their lives. When envy begins to creep into our heart, what are some things we can do to keep it from taking root?

2. Have you ever dealt with betrayal in your life? How did you deal with it? How did you recognize God's presence with you?

3. Proverbs 14:30 says,"a tranquil heart gives life to the flesh but envy makes the bones rot." However, Romans 8:28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
   How do you lean into this hope rather than letting envy eat you alive?

UNISON READING: Genesis 50:20

You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it.