

## When Life Becomes the Pits

Back to Basics: Genesis

### A. Family History of Joseph

1. Abraham & Sarah - great grandparents
  2. Isaac & Rebekah - grandparents
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ and Rachel (although Jacob also married Leah) - parents
  4. 12 Brothers:
    - from Leah - Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.
    - from Rachel - Joseph and Benjamin.
    - from Bilhah, (Rachel's handmaid) - Dan and Naphtali.
    - from Zilpah, (Leah's handmaid) - Gad and Asher.
- when the angel renamed Jacob Israel, then these 12 sons & their descendents came to be known as the 12 tribes of \_\_\_\_\_
- They ALL were very jealous of Rachel, Joseph & Benjamin, & especially Joseph, because Joseph was the first-born son of Rachel

### B. 5 Lessons from Joseph's Early Life

1. If you are willing to receive it, God will prepare and equip you in the \_\_\_\_\_ for whatever challenges that lie ahead in your future.
2. We need to walk closely with God today in \_\_\_\_\_ for what is to come, precisely because *only* God knows what is to come anyway
3. Where is God when *you* are thrown into "that pit?"
  - Q: Where was God in Joseph's life?
  - A: God was *there*.
  - Q: Where is God in *your* life?
  - A: God is *there* with you
4. While you are in the pits, if you remain faithful, know that God is also \_\_\_\_\_ that suffering and evil into good purposes.
  - Gen 50:20 - Joseph would wind up telling his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."
5. If you are truly loving God, never \_\_\_\_\_ the power of God to work out your circumstances for good.