

DEALING WITH REJECTION (JOSEPH)

**Genesis 37:12–36;
50:15–21**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Genesis 50:20

MEMORY VERSE

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **Genesis 50:20**

Rejection is part of teen living—rejection of an invitation to the prom; rejection by a peer group; not making the basketball team; coming up short of making the grade; not getting that lead role in the school musical. Most students could write you a book on how it feels to be rejected.

Read **Genesis 37:12–36** and **50:15–21**. Joseph suffered a great deal of rejection at the hands of his brothers, and then at the hand of Potiphar. He knew the discouragement, degradation, frustration, and fear that went along with being rejected. If anyone had the right to be bitter and vindictive, Joseph might have been able to claim it. But through his faith, and his perseverance, Joseph lived to see the day that God would show him a much bigger

picture. God had a plan all along. He intended to show Joseph His plan, but in due time.

A student’s world can seem pretty small because it consists of mainly their family, church family, and friends. Because of their limited perspective, rejection is like a life sentence. So when your teen experiences rejection, and even before, it would be a good idea to sit with him or her and discuss Joseph. Remind your teen of Joseph’s experience with rejection, and God’s overarching plan that sometimes takes unexpected turns, but has good as its outcome. Perseverance builds faith and character—attributes applied to Joseph. God wants to build these attributes into our lives as well.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family talks about those times as a child, when two teams were choosing their teammates. A family member reads: **Does the following scenario sound familiar? One captain called out one person to be on her team, then, the other captain called out another to be on his team. High fives and back-pats were given to those who were the first. A lot of whispering went on in the ears of teammates, saying, “Choose so-and-so,” or, “don’t choose so-and-so.”**

Next, the family discusses: **Were you ever the last one or next to last one called out? How did that make you feel?**

Explore . . .

First, the family shares in the reading of **Genesis 37:12–36** and **50:15–21**. Next, the family discusses: **What are the different emotions you think Joseph might have felt at times during his experiences? What are some ways you can identify with the rejection he might have felt? How did Joseph deal with the rejection?**

Transform . . .

The family members discuss: **How has God worked through some of your difficult circumstances? What will you take away from Joseph’s experience that will help you deal with your next rejection experience, waiting for God’s big picture?**

Pray that your family will realize that God never rejects anyone, no matter what the circumstances.

Pray that your family will know that God always has good plans in store for His children.