

What makes the Bible so believable?

- It tells the _____ about real people in real places
"We might want a more sanitized version of Scripture, but apparently, we got the one God wanted us to have: one that is full of real humanity. There are no plastic, dashboard saints in Scripture, just real people." STEPHEN ELLIOTT
- With _____ and _____ that God uses and redeems
"No one is righteous—not even one... No one does good, not a single one... For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." ROM 3:10, 12, & 23
- To reveal His _____
"God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ." JOHN 1:17
- And extend His _____
"Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning." LAM 3:23
- So that we might come to _____ Him and _____ Him

Joseph's story revolves around his dysfunctional family marked by:**1. Polygamy & Generational Sin**

- Jacob (Joseph's father) = "deceiver," "usurper," or "little cheat"; he stole his older brother's inheritance by deception and he lived most of his adult life estranged from his father, mother, and only brother
- Leah = Joseph's first wife by deception, their 6 boys and 1 daughter (sons 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, & 10)
- Rachel = Joseph's second wife, their 2 boys (sons 11 & 12)

- Zilpah = Leah's servant, with Jacob had 2 boys (sons 7 & 8)
- Bilhah = Rache's maid, with Jacob had 2 boys (sons 5 & 6)

2. Sibling jealousy, rivalry, and parental favoritism**3. Manipulation, unloved wives, and uncherished kids**

In the story of Joseph, we're going to learn some amazing lessons about God's Word, the NATURE and SOVEREIGNTY of GOD, the destructive nature of SIN, and the beauty of His GOODNESS and GRACE.

1. There is a difference between what the Bible _____ and what it _____
 - The Bible records what people _____, not simply what they should have done
 - The Bible does not _____ sin leading us to think people are spiritual superstars
 - The Bible does not hide the crippling _____ of sin and its potential generational ripple
2. Secrets are _____ and have the power to deform and destroy relationships and lives
3. The _____ has the power to release, restore, and redeem relationships and lives
4. God is never _____ by our failing choices or the choices that others have recklessly imposed on us
5. There are no _____ lives in the Kingdom of God
6. God has a _____ to do family than Joseph's

"In Joseph's story we discover that God is findable in the midst of the real stuff of life, the relationships that shape and misshape everyday life." ELLIOTT