**Letdown – Disappointed by Others Part 2**

**“Joseph has now decided to put his brothers to the final test. He will place them in a position where they will be strongly tempted to treat Benjamin as they had treated him. The point of Josephs test is that repentance is only complete when one knows that if placed in the same position, they would not act in the way they had acted before.” Robert Sacks**

**Three Results of Relational Letdown**

1. **Hard Heart**
2. **Justified Sin**
3. **Revengeful Attitude**

***Genesis 37 & 39***

**Jacob favours Joseph over his other sons.**

***Genesis 37:2-4, James 2***

**The hatred of Joseph’s brothers.**

***Genesis 37:4-6***

**“The brothers then sat around the rim at the top of the cistern and callously ate their food, while inside the cistern their teenage brother cried his heart out, as they later recalled with bitter regret: ‘We saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen.’” John Lennox**

**The deception and destruction of Joseph’s reputation.**

***Genesis 39***

**Take Aways:**

1. **Forgiveness, Justice and Restoration.**

**Got Questions? Text 519-893-2951 or email shayne@pathwaycc.ca**

1. Share about your last couple weeks as you catch up.
2. What has God been doing in your life? What has He been challenging you with? Where has He been working?
3. Talk about the differences between unintentional hurt (talked about last week) and intentional hurt which we looked at this week.
4. When you think of the 3 results of letdown – have you ever experienced these when you have been hurt? Have you ever hurt someone coming from this place? Describe what that was like.
5. Read Genesis 37.
6. What stands out to you in the passage you read?
7. What is the most challenging part for you?
8. Was there something that you didn’t understand, or do you have any questions about the passage you read?
9. In the early part of Genesis 37 we see that Joseph’s brothers were filled with so much hate they couldn’t say a nice word to him. How can we keep ourselves from getting to this place when we are hurt by or angry with others?
10. Describe how you see the 3 results of relational letdown in the lives of the brothers.
11. When you evaluate your life are there any places where you are living with a hardened heart, justifying sin, or a revengeful attitude because of relational letdowns? What would it look like for you to begin to address these in your life?
12. Are there any relationships in your life where you are living with unresolved hurt? Do you need to offer forgiveness? Why is it so hard to offer forgiveness?
13. Spend some time praying for one another to close your time.