

### **Reuben – Good Intentions**

“When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. ‘Let’s not take his life,’ he said.”

*-Genesis 37:21*

### **Ishmaelites and Midianites – Angry Relatives**

“ . . .and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the East. . .And they lived in hostility toward all their brothers.”

*-Genesis 25:6,18*

### **Judah – Conscience or Greed?**

“Judah said to his brothers, ‘What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.’”

*-Genesis 37:26-27*

### **Brothers – Coordinated Lie**

“They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, ‘We found this. Examine it to see if it is your son’s robe.’”

*-Genesis 37:32*

### **Jacob – Clinging to Grief**

“All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. ‘No,’ he said, ‘in mourning I will go down to the grave to my son.’ So his father wept for him.”

*-Genesis 37:35*

## **What Can We Learn?**

### Good Intentions Get Tested

“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.”

*-James 4:17*

### **-God Offers A Solution**

“Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me.”

*-Psalm 25:4-5*

“When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.”

*-Psalm 138:3*

### Guilt Is Real And Powerful

They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.”

Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.”

*-Genesis 42:21-22*

“The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

*-Proverbs 10:9*

“A man tormented by the guilt of murder will be a fugitive till death; let no one support him.”

*-Proverbs 28:17*

### **-God Offers A Solution**

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” *-Psalm 32:5*

## **What Can We Learn?**

### Grief Is Real And Powerful

“The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: ‘O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you – O Absalom, my son, my son.’”

*-2 Samuel 18:33*

“ . . .for he was comforted concerning Amnon’s death.”

*-2 Samuel 13:39*

### **-God Offers A Solution**

“Then David got up from the ground. . .he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.”

*-2 Samuel 12:20*

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles.”

*-2 Corinthians 1:3-4*