



SERMON NOTES

Todd Arnett

April 8, 2018

When the bottom falls out of your life, cling to Jesus for the help and the hope that you need.

1. Family dysfunction doesn't determine who you are going to be, but it does affect you

2. For some, the bottom falls out because of the actions of their families

Genesis 37:1-11

Genesis 37:17-20

The namesakes of the 12 Tribes of Israel would've been profiled on Dateline if this story happened today

Genesis 37:21-36

3. When the bottom falls out, it matters who you cling to

Trials should not surprise us, or cause us to doubt God's faithfulness. Rather, we should actually be glad for them. God sends trials to strengthen our trust in him so that our faith will not fail. Our trials keep us trusting; they burn away our self-confidence and drive us to our Savior.

Edmund Clowney

Don't dismiss the bottom falling out in your life as a time that God doesn't want to work in and through you to reach others in your world

"You'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime don't be foolish or naïve. But don't despair either. With God's help, you'll get through this."

Max Lucado

Now What?

When the bottom falls out of your life, cling to Jesus for the help and the hope that you need.

HOLD ON

HOME GROUP NOTES

Week of April 8

Hold On #1 – From Favored Son to Foreign Slave

Home Groups are a place to build friendships, talk about what we are learning, and walk through life together. You can find more information at www.trinityonline.org/connect/home-groups/.



Share It

Have you been in a place where others were jealous of you or you of others?



Study the Bible

Genesis is the “beginnings” of God’s master plan to include people in His blessings. Jacob was chosen by God to become a nation to make God known to the world. However, as this story shows, mankind has a sin problem. Read Genesis 37:1-36.

What do we learn about the character of the people that God chose to build a nation?

What did Joseph (17) do that demonstrated a desire to be faithful to his father?

Joseph was the firstborn of Jacob’s wife of choosing. How was this demonstrated by Jacob?

How did the dreams portray Joseph's destiny? How did his brothers respond?

What do we learn about God's sovereign plans? How did the brothers respond?

God planned for the brothers to be "stars" (v. 9). How did they respond? Why?



Discuss Together

All of us grew up in families with broken people. Which experiences seemed to mark you the most?

Joseph's family had overt favoritism. Have you experienced this somewhere? How did this affect relationships?

Why does jealousy turn us against 'the favored one' rather than 'the one showing favor?' (cf. Cain and Able, Joseph and his brothers)

Hateful actions can result in bitterness. Have you experienced this? What has helped you escape the hold of bitterness?



Pray

- Pray for one another in your group – for healing, for those who feel life's challenges
- Pray for your adopted global workers



Apply It This Week

Ask God to replace any bitterness or jealousy with joy and thanksgiving for His goodness and grace.