

# Got Mojo?

## “Dysfunctional Family Tree”

**Gen. 37:1-4:** “Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.<sup>2</sup> This is the account of Jacob’s family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.<sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.”

### How Can I Go From Dysfunction to Distinction?

#### 1. By accepting that freaky runs in most family trees - no family is free of problems.

- **Gen. 12:12-13:** “When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live.<sup>13</sup> Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”
- **Gen. 16:1-2:** “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;<sup>2</sup> so she said to Abram, ‘The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.’ Abram agreed to what Sarai said.”
- **Gen. 25:27-28:** “Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.<sup>28</sup> Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.”
- **Gen. 26:7:** “When the men of that place asked him about his wife, he said, ‘She is my sister, because he was afraid to say, ‘She is my wife.’ He thought, ‘The men of this place might kill me on account of Rebekah, because she is beautiful.’”
- **Gen. 29:22-25a:** “So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast.<sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her.<sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant.<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah!”

#### 2. By learning from my family’s flub ups & dreaming to fly above the negative influences of my life.

- **Gen. 37:5-11:** “Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.<sup>6</sup> He said to them, ‘Listen to this dream I had:<sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.’<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, ‘Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?’ And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.<sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. ‘Listen,’ he said, ‘I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.’<sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, ‘What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?’<sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.”