

## The Pit

Genesis 37:12-24

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+37%3A12-24&version=NIV>

***“and they took him and threw him into the cistern.  
The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.” (vs. 24)***

At some point or another, we all enter the dry cistern, a pit. For Joseph, being thrown into the cistern was just the beginning of his “pit” experience. Pits usually catch us by surprise. I imagine Joseph had no clue as he went merrily along to check on his brothers that they were going to throw him into that cistern. As he comes to bring provision and check on them, his own brothers grab ahold of him and throw him in a cistern as they try to determine the best way to eliminate him permanently.

Scripture does not tell us what Joseph was thinking or doing when he was in that cistern. I know what I’d be doing. I’d be feeling defeated. How would I ever get out? If I did, how could I stand against my many older brothers? I would also be feeling angry. What horrible brother’s would do this to their younger sibling? What kind of God would allow me to end up in this pit when I was obeying my father? I would also be trying to talk to my brothers, appeal to their compassion and try to get them to let me out of there. And I would be praying. I’d be asking God why, asking God for a way out of the pit, asking God where God is at in the pit, listening for a word from God. We don’t know for sure what Joseph was doing in the pit or how long he was there, but I can picture Joseph praying in that cistern and filling a dry cistern with his wet tears of fear, frustration, and anger.

When we are in the pit, there are always those around us who are above the pit (in Joseph’s case it was his brothers) and there is always God present with us in the pit. Sometimes those above the pit help us to see God in the pit with us and help to pull us out. Who around you is in the pit? Is there someone you could encourage today in word or deed? Who will you encounter who needs to be reminded God is with them and you are too? Is there someone who can benefit from hearing your story of being in the pit? As we share in the pit experiences of others and as we share our own pit experiences, we engage in the kingdom building work of God.