

Key: **Green is “On the Screen”**. **Yellow is “Video”**. **Aqua is “Special Emphasis”**.

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Good Morning...Welcome...

Title Slide – “Broken Crayons Still Color”

2/7/16

I heard a powerful sermon on one of the 2 snow days we had this week. The sermon was by Bishop Dale C. Bronner of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Atlanta, GA. It was powerful! In this sermon he told a story of a broken crayon. I realized, that everyone has a story of a broken crayon. Let me explain...

You know what it is like to have a crayon, to color with that crayon, only to have it snap in your hand. Or the crayon box, you pull out the cool blue or red or green, only to find that it is barely large enough to fit in your hand. Our mind goes straight to the thought – “This picture is ruined, because of this broken crayon...”

Wait a minute, the last time I checked, a broken crayon still colors. Doesn't it? Yes it does! Little kids don't like broken crayons, big kids don't like broken crayons...but they still color! We all know what crayons are, but we don't own them anymore. Yet this simple truth works for more than just crayons!

Broken dreams are still able to be realized. Broken spirits still need life and freedom. Broken hearts still have purpose, and can still give purpose!

Just because it is broken, doesn't mean that it holds no value! God loves to use the broken! He love to put the pieces back together again. We know this, because of what Jesus shows us...

1 Corinthians 11:24 (KJV), “24 And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘**Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**’”

Jesus, body broken, all for us! God used the broken pieces of His Son's life and death, to put us back together!

You see, the next time you sit down to color, grab the broken crayon, look at the picture, put the crayon on the paper, and watch it come to life again!

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Let's Pray!

This morning we will be using the story of Joseph's life to talk about the small things of Broken Crayons...

Background of Joseph...

- **Born into a dysfunctional family...**
 - **Gen. 27 – Jacob stole birthright**
 - **Gen. 29 - Jacob married sisters**
 - **Gen. 30 – Dishonest herding.**
 - **Gen. 34 – Murder**
- **Mom died early, brothers were a piece of work. – Gen. 35:19**
- **Momma's boy, that turned into a Daddy's boy... aka Tattle Tale! – Gen. 37:2**
- **Jacob (Dad) loved his boy Joseph because he was born late in Jacob's life. Gave him a beautiful coat. – Gen. 37:3**

Want to talk about **Broken Crayons** – seriously – right?!?!?

There are 3 places where the enemy will try to break you. He make actually break your dreams, your spirit, and/or your hearts, but they will still be useful for God's plan!

1) **Our Dreams**

- **Gen. 37:5-11**, ⁵One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. ⁶"Listen to this dream," he said. ⁷"We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!"

⁸ His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. ⁹ Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

¹⁰ This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?"

¹¹ But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant."

- **Your dreams are for you and others, still you will encounter haters!**
- **You and I will encounter confirmation, yet still will doubt.**
- **Your dreams are for you to be used to bring freedom!**

2) **Our Spirits**

- **Gen. 37:18-35**, ¹⁸When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes the dreamer!" they said. ²⁰"Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

²¹ But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. ²² "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

²³ So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. ²⁴ Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. ²⁷ Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. ²⁸ So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

²⁹ Sometime later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief. ³⁰ Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, "The boy is gone! What will I do now?"

³¹ Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. ³² They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?"

³³ Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!"

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. ³⁵ His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "I will go to my grave mourning for my son," he would say, and then he would weep.

- **Stripped of your identity. Your Robe! – Gen. 37:23**
- **Cast into a cistern. A dry place – no water! – Gen. 37:24**
- **Sold into slavery. – Gen. 37:28**
- **Left for dead. Not really, that is just what everybody said! – Gen. 37:31 & 32**
- **Your whereabouts are completely unknown by those who love you. – Gen. 37:33-35**
- **Your spirit dies because of the loss of hope for freedom.**

I want to point here something that I think is a pretty powerful word in the scripture.

Gen. 37:36, “**MEANWHILE**, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.”

From cistern, to slavery, to the house of the Captain of the guard!

Sounds like a promotion to me!

3) **Our hearts!**

- **Gen. 39:6-20**, “⁶So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷ and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded.

⁸ But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹ No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”

¹⁰ She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. ¹¹ One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. ¹² She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, “Come on, sleep with me!” Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

¹³ When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, ¹⁴ she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. “Look!” she said. “My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed. ¹⁵ When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me.”

¹⁶ She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. ¹⁷ Then she told him her story. “That Hebrew slave you’ve brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me,” she said. ¹⁸ “But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!”

¹⁹ Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife’s story about how Joseph had treated her. ²⁰ So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king’s prisoners were held, and there he remained.

- **Notice where the enemy attacks lastly – the heart, emotion, “love”.**
- **Gen. 39:8&9**, “⁸ But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹ No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because

you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”

- **Vs. 10, still more pressure coming!**
- **Vs. 20, He left – he ended up in the presence of Pharaoh!**
- **Your fleeing temptation, is not coward – it is your freedom!**

Now look at this...

Gen. 39:21 – 23, ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. ²² Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. ²³ The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.”

Church, have you heard me say that **“Broken Crayons Still Color”!**

Acts 7:9, 10, & 14, ⁹ “These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his troubles. And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace. ¹⁴ Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and all his relatives to come to Egypt, seventy-five persons in all.”

Not just a nation, but a family was saved! All by a “Broken Crayon”!

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(Broken Crayons at the altar)

Prayer Time!

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