

MoJo

“Removing the Stain”

How Will God Help Me Deal with My Stubborn Stain of Shame?

1. By leading me to experience fear in uncertainty.

- **Gen. 43:16-22:** “When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, ‘Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon.’¹⁷The man did as Joseph told him and took the men to Joseph's house.¹⁸Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house. They thought, ‘We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys.’¹⁹So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.²⁰‘Please, sir,’ they said, ‘we came down here the first time to buy food.’²¹But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver—the exact weight—in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us.²²We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks.’”

2. By leading me to experience confusion in complexity.

- **Gen. 43:23-34:** “‘It's all right,’ he said. ‘Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver.’ Then he brought Simeon out to them.²⁴The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys.²⁵They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there.²⁶When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground.²⁷He asked them how they were, and then he said, ‘How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?’²⁸They replied, ‘Your servant our father is still alive and well.’ And they bowed low to pay him honor.²⁹As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, ‘Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?’ And he said, ‘God be gracious to you, my son.’³⁰Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.³¹After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, ‘Serve the food.’³²They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians.³³The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment.³⁴When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.’”

3. By leading me to experience brokenness in humility.

- **Gen. 44:1-17:** “Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: ‘Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's silver in the mouth of his sack.² Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack, along with the silver for his grain.’ And he did as Joseph said.³As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.⁴They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, ‘Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, Why have you repaid good with evil? Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.’⁵When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them.⁶But they said to him, ‘Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that!’⁷We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house?⁸If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord's slaves.’⁹‘Very well, then,’ he said, ‘let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame.’¹⁰Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.¹¹Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.¹²At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.¹³Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him.¹⁴Joseph said to them, ‘What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?’¹⁵‘What can we say to my lord?’ Judah replied. ‘What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.’¹⁶But Joseph said, ‘Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.’”