



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Joseph - *The Dreamer* [Genesis 37]

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

What in your life do you have such conviction about (a hobby, a product, an interest, a sports team, a child/family, a cause) that you could “sell” us on it today? Why is that?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Steve walked us through the starting point for Joseph in Genesis 37. The journey for Joseph started with 2 different dreams God gave him. Joseph had no way of knowing what would come of the dreams God had given him and how they would ultimately be fulfilled. God’s will exists on the top floor where to us it appears out of sight, while we live our lives on the bottom floor—with all its complexities, joys and sorrows.

1. What was your starting point? Take time to share the starting point of faith for each person in the small group. For many, the seeds of faith were planted through a parent, friend, pastor, camp, Sunday school teacher, etc...
2. In what specific ways have you seen the hand of God guide, direct and protect you throughout your life?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Genesis 37:1-28]

What was the nature of the bad report Joseph gave to Jacob regarding his brothers? (37:2)

Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other sons? (37:3)

What was the significance of the coat with many colors?

Why is the detail of a man giving Joseph directions included in this story? (37:15-17)

What was the brothers first response to seeing Joseph from afar traveling to meet them? (37:18-20)

How many symptoms of family disfunction can you see in Genesis 37? (37:3-5, 11, 18-19, 27-28)

What was the significance of the brothers tending the flock near Shechem? (33:18-34)

Questions that help us understand the significance of the text to us?

Why did God choose to reveal to Joseph what he would someday become at an early and immature age?

How have you seen jealousy, favoritism, and anger destroy family and friendships in your life?

How is Joseph a shadow of or a picture of Jesus in the Old Testament?

APPLICATION

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?