

JOSEPH

The Dreamer – Genesis 37

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER: What do you think the perfect family looks like?

Read Genesis 37

THE FAMILY

- What impression do you get of the family in this story?
- Look at the passages where **Jacob** is mentioned in this story. Do you think Jacob was a loving father? Why or why not? *(note: the long sleeves on Joseph's coat signified that he was not intended to go and work in the fields – as the rest of his brothers did – but had a higher status of overseer).*
- Look at all the passages where we see **Joseph** in the chapter. Do you think Joseph was a loving brother or son? Why or why not?
- What does the story teach us about how God works in dysfunctional situations?



Remember that even Jesus came from a tough family background. Don't feel that your less-than-perfect family situation means that God can't work in you.

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THE DREAMS

- God speaks through dreams but not all dreams are a message from God! If you think your dream is from God, pray about it, talk and pray with a wise Christian friend, and ask God to confirm it. But remember that in general, God doesn't use dreams to communicate as much as other ways. **What might some of those other ways be?**
- Joseph seemed to recognise that his dreams were significant. Should he have kept them to himself for the sake of peace and humility, or did he do well to declare it to his family?
- **Verse 11** tells us that Jacob 'kept the matter in mind'. How in particular might he have been thinking bearing in mind his past experience with dreams being sent from God (**Genesis 28 : 10-22**)?



Discuss what are the things to bear in mind in sharing what we believe to come from God, especially with those who are in a more difficult place.

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GOING DEEPER

Compare **Genesis 37:18-20** to **James 1:15**.
How could the brothers have stopped their desire before it led to sin?

Later in **Genesis 37:26**, Judah presents an alternative to killing Joseph that seems to benefit everybody (the brothers make money and Joseph gets to live) but it was really deceit.

Sin always presents itself as a beneficial alternative, but inevitably leads to regret.
Why, then, do we fall for its lies?
How might we, like Judah, justify sinning?



As we make our way through these chapters looking at the life of Joseph, we will be considering how he gives us a picture of Jesus.

In what ways is Joseph like Jesus in this chapter?
In which ways is he different?

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LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

**CASTING
CROWNS:**

**PRAISE YOU
IN THIS
STORM**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dB4eC55dh-U>

PRAY

Use some of the thoughts that have come up in today's reading and conversation to guide your prayers as you ask God to use your life to honour him, even when things are bleak.