



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"HEBREWS 11:22 / GENESIS 37:50" ON FEBRUARY 24 & 27, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: HEBREWS 11:23-29/ EXODUS 12:33-50

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

HEBREWS 11:22 "By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones." The story of Joseph describes a roller coaster of hardships and blessings; his life shows us how our responses and outcomes can differ when we place ourselves in the center of our universe rather than putting God in that place.

- **WHO IS THE CENTER OF YOUR UNIVERSE?** For his first 17 years, Joseph enjoyed being the center of his universe as the favorite of Jacob's 11 sons, boldly sharing his gift of interpreting dreams by describing dreams of his brothers bowing down to him. His boasting and his brothers' hatred of him resulted in his being thrown in a pit and later forgotten in jail.
- Most of us have experienced times of finding ourselves in a pit - a place we knew we had no ability to get out of - or a time we felt lonely, forgotten or numb. How would you describe the struggles and emotions we experience in those situations?
- How might your own struggles be like or unlike what Joseph experienced in the pit and when he was in jail, and how did you respond to those struggles? What does this show about who is the center of your universe?
- Just as God gifted Joseph with the gift of interpreting dreams, He has gifted each of us in many ways. When you think of the gifts He gave you, how willing are you to step outside the center of your universe and use those gifts to bring glory to Him rather than yourself?

**TEMPTATION AND SIN:** As a 17-year-old Joseph gave in to the temptation to boast about his dreams, but after his experiences as a slave, his perspective changed. When tempted by Potiphar's wife, he ran from sin, doing the right thing – but he landed in jail.

- Read the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife in Genesis 38:1-10. How did Joseph's experiences thus far shape his response to the advances of Potiphar's wife, and what can we learn from his experiences and responses?
- What temptations occur in your life day-by-day that could lead to sin if you let your resistance down? How can you ask God to equip you for resisting temptations?

**FORGIVENESS and FORGIVING:** Genesis 50:15-20 describes Joseph's brothers' fear after their father died; they feared Joseph would 'pay them back' for the wrongs they had done to them. However, the way Joseph treated his brothers after their father's death provides a picture of how God treats us in Christ: Joseph showed his brothers forgiveness, mercy and grace.

- Joseph told his brothers that God had used everything in his life, even the harm they had done him, for good.....what do you think allowed Joseph, after all those years and after all the hardships he had faced, to not only forgive his brothers, but to give them provision and hope for the future? How does this story grow your faith and give you a perspective of hope for your own future?
- Are there things/sins in your past that you think are too big for God to forgive, or sins you can intellectually let go of but not emotionally surrender? What would it take for you to step outside your own universe and realize that God can and will forgive those sins, no matter how great or small?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

- Who in your life needs your forgiveness? How does the story of Joseph's response to his brothers encourage you to realize the depth of the forgiveness God has given you and to then extend that grace and mercy to those who have wronged you?

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.