

Dreams (Meant For Good: The Life of Joseph)

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 37:1-11**

Discussion Questions

1. Today we are starting a new sermon series about the life of Joseph called, *Meant for Good*. How much of Joseph's story are you familiar with? Do you find him to be an interesting figure in the Old Testament? Why or why not?
2. Our scripture reading today is **Genesis 37:1-11**. This is the beginning of Joseph's story but it's not the beginning of the story of his family. For much of the book of Genesis we read about Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants, and it's a really dysfunctional story with constant infighting, sibling rivalry, pain, hurt, violence, and deception. Generation after generation they seem to fall into the same traps. God has chosen this family to do something special, but it's clear that they are very far from perfect. As you read Genesis 37:1-11 what aspects of this dysfunctional family system do you see playing out in this current generation?
3. If you reflect on the family you came from, do they sound at all like Joseph's family? Every family has at least a small level of dysfunction and goes down from generation to generation. How could you actively work to break some of these cycles? How could you lean on God's power and faithfulness as you seek to change your family story going forward? Start in prayer, acknowledging the hurt and pain, and asking God for His mighty work to be done.
4. At the end of Joseph's story, there is a wonderful quote that accurately sums up the whole of the story. Genesis 50:20, speaking to his brothers, Joseph says: "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*" Joseph's brothers meant to hurt him, but God had transformed the results of their intentions into something that would save many lives. Has God ever done anything like this in your life?