

Dysfunction (Week 2)
Meant For Good: The Life of Joseph
Scripture Reading: **Genesis 37:12-36**
Discussion Questions

1. We are in the second week of our new sermon series about the life of Joseph called, *Meant for Good*. Today's reading is Genesis 37:12-36. Read this passage for yourself. What stands out to you as you read?
2. Joseph's family are people called by God to do something special but are deeply flawed. Their family story is one of constant infighting, sibling rivalry, pain, hurt, violence, and deception. Generation after generation falls into the same sinful traps, which seem to be building and building. All of us have received a legacy from our own families, some good things, and some negative things. Name a few negative things from your family's past that you want to put a stop to. Pray that God would give you the strength, endurance, wisdom, and power to be the generation to end some of these unhealthy ways of living.
3. The next section in this story is incredibly terrible. Brothers plotting to kill their own brother, and then selling him off as a slave! Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but the oldest brother Reuben tried to save his life. Reuben proposed a different plan, to throw Joseph into an empty cistern, planning on saving him later. But as Joseph's brothers waited a group of slave traders came past, and they decided to sell off Joseph as a slave. How could his brothers have stopped their evil desires before it led to this terrible sin? What should have, or could have, gone differently in this family's story?
4. Joseph's brothers now work to cover their tracks by more lies and deception. They take Joseph's coat, tear it, and dip it in goat's blood. Then they return it to their father saying that Joseph was killed by wild animals. Jacob was crushed by this news and mourned deeply. Sin and evil result in more lies and deception. Can you think of an example of this in your own life? One lie can snowball and lead to more and more lies. How could this story have looked different if this family had just addressed the root of their hurt and pain?