

Dreams and Nightmares **Genesis 37**

Joseph and His Father

(1-4)

- Favoritism
- Significance of the Coat
- Connection with Rachel

Joseph and His Dreams

(5-11)

- Sheaves
- Sun, Moon, and Stars
- Not very tactful
- Stirs the animosity
- Dreams came from God

Joseph and His Brothers

(12-28)

- Shechem = the tribe Simeon and Levi massacred
- Jealous of the coat, but insult him for the dreams
- Reuben's strategy – attempt to get back in good with dad?
- Judah's strategy

Grief and God's Plan

(29-36)

- If Jacob doesn't favor Joseph, the brothers wouldn't hate him
- If brothers don't sell Joseph, they'll die in the famine
- Everyone involved is making emotional decisions, creating conflict and adversity – but God is moving the pieces exactly where they need to be

Questions for study and small group discussion:

1. What was new to you in this passage?
2. Has God directed your life through adversity and conflict to something that wouldn't have happened otherwise? How?
3. Why do you think God chose to work with such a messy family?
4. What was the difference between Reuben and Judah's plans?
5. What does this passage tell us about Joseph?
6. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you be patient when you don't understand what God is doing in, around, and through you.