

Wednesday

Read: Genesis 37:19-20 *The plot to kill Joseph*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think the brothers were so worried about Joseph's dreams?*
2. *Take time to pray for your family and for all families who struggle to live in peace and wholeness.*

Prayer Focus Pride, jealousy, greed, favoritism, selfishness—all these emotions can overtake us at times, God. Yet you've shown us that wanting to destroy someone or destroy their dreams is a terrible path. Rescue us from our weakness. Help us find ways to dream together in hope.

Thursday

Read: Genesis 37:21-24 *Reuben to the rescue*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Reuben wanted Joseph to live?*
2. *How would you intervene to help someone who was down in a pit in their life? Has anyone helped you that way?*

Prayer Focus Let us be like Reuben, Gracious God. Give us the sight and the courage to interrupt patterns of hatred and cruelty, wherever we see them.

Friday

Read: Genesis 37:25-28 *Joseph is sold to strangers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the brothers believe they were doing the right thing in selling Joseph into slavery?*
2. *Are there parallel situations in our society today? Pray for all those who are unwanted or cast aside, sold or sent away.*

Prayer Focus We offer ourselves today to be changed, Holy God. Draw us closer. Put our hearts to rights. Give us eyes to see where we are in the wrong and where forgiveness is needed to restore us to each other and to you, in peace.

Here Comes the Dreamer

Pastor's message: Genesis 37:1-4; 12-28

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Have you ever had a bad report from someone close to you? How did you handle it?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Genesis 37:1-4; 12-28**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

HERE COMES THE DREAMER

August 13, 2023

Monday

Read: Genesis 37:1-4 *Joseph offends his brothers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *In Joseph's society, it was usually the eldest son who was favored. How did Jacob's favoritism upset the family?*
2. *Do you identify more with any of the people in this story: Joseph, the father, the brothers, the mothers? Why?*

Prayer Focus We fear sometimes that someone else is getting more than their fair share, robbing us of what we think should be ours. Help us break from living in jealousy and anger, pride and selfishness. Forgive us when we forget your way, our God.

Tuesday

Read: Genesis 37:12-18 *Joseph follows his brothers*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Joseph was not included in the brothers' work. Would this have changed things among them?*
2. *Do you think the brothers believed killing Joseph would change their father's love toward them? Why?*

Prayer Focus You promised that Israel's descendants would be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Yet we see what a mess they were! We see how we can be the same as they were. Forgive us, Steadfast God, and help us to learn to live as a blessing in our world.