

# TAKEAWAY

## Joseph Part 1

Genesis 29:31-30:24, 37:1-11



### DESIRED OUTCOMES

*To see that the story of God's grace is built in to all of scripture for our encouragement.*

*To embrace the idea that family narratives don't need to be the biggest influence in our formation.*

### INTRODUCTION

The book of Genesis is foundational to the story of scripture, and around a quarter of it is given to the story of Joseph. His life is one of huge ups and downs, family fallouts, great faith and forgiveness. It reflects what people are like – and always have been – and what God is like – and always will be.

### SHARE

- What do you think the perfect family looks like?
- How has the family or situation you grew up in shaped who you are today – for both good and bad?

### READ

**Genesis 29:31-30:24 & 37:1-11**

(This will take some time, invite a few different people to read)

### DISCUSS

How would you describe Joseph's family?

Why is a story like this in the Bible? Why is it so important to a book like Genesis, which introduces us to God and His people?

Jacob had a dozen children with 4 different women. But he favoured his son Joseph. When have you experienced favouritism? Were you the favourite or not? How did that feel? What resulted from it?

What damage do you think Jacob's preference caused across the rest of the family?

What do you think God would say to a friend who had clearly been a) 'preferred' or b) 'not preferred' by those who raised them?

Why do you think God revealed something important to Joseph through dreams? What did they reveal about God's plan for Joseph? What do they reveal about God?

Considering the tension in the family, why would Joseph have shared these dreams?

As we work our way through the life of Joseph, we'll unpack how his story ultimately points to the greater story of Jesus. How are the seeds of this evident in these strange passages? In what ways is Joseph 'like' Jesus in this chapter?

### EXPLAIN

Dreams were significant in the ancient world as they were believed to be messages from God that revealed the future through symbols and pictures. Joseph receives two dreams that seem to share a similar theme. Later in his life, he is called to interpret Pharaoh's two dreams. His reason for the two dreams is found in Genesis 41:32 *'The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.'*

What does this say about the significance of Joseph's dreams?

How does the person of Jesus transform even deeply ingrained things like troubling family dynamics? Is this something you have experienced or need to experience?

### **PRAY**

### **TRY OUT**

Who in your extended family would it be particularly good to pray for this week? Is there anyone you don't want to pray for? It might be them!