

Joseph Dreams The Life of Joseph

Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth:

In times of trouble it is helpful to consider Joseph, who like Jesus Christ, remained faithful in distress and was used by God to bring salvation to his people.

Joseph was a young man, especially loved by his father but despised by his brothers. His story in the Bible takes him on a journey from pain and prison to the second most powerful position in Egypt. Through it all, we see God's hand guiding Joseph and bringing about salvation to his people. In the end, Joseph himself declares to his brothers: "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Genesis 50:20 ESV).

DISCUSS

Read **Genesis 37:1-11** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on **Joseph's Dreams**.

DIG IN

1. Joseph, the Favored one. (Genesis 37:1-4)

Joseph had a special relationship with his father and was given a special gift—a robe of many colors.

Read Genesis 37:3: Describe why Joseph was especially favored by his father. Do you agree with Jacob's decision to favor his son? Why or why not?

2. Joseph, the Hated one. (Genesis 37:5-11)

Read Genesis 37:4-5: What were the causes for Joseph's brothers hating him (see also Genesis 37:2)?

Spend time discussing Joseph's two dreams (Genesis 37:5-9). Compare and contrast both dreams. What are the similarities? What are the differences?

How did these dreams contribute to the brothers' growing hatred of Joseph?

In what ways do these dreams contribute to God's unfolding revelation of His plan for salvation?

In what ways is Joseph like Jesus Christ? How is he different?

DO

Take some time now to give thanks to God for the story of Joseph. Thank God that, just as he was with Joseph in both his suffering and exaltation, he remains present with us today in the bad times and in the good.