Joseph: Can I Overcome a Messed Up Family?

Pastor Derek Sanford

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**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point that stood out to you or challenged you?
2. Read **Genesis 37:1-11** How could Joseph have handled things differently in verses 5-10 concerning the dreams that God placed in his heart?
3. What are the brothers’ prevailing emotions as pointed out in verses 4, 8, and 11? How have you personally seen these emotions do damage in a family environment?
4. **Read Deuteronomy 6:1-25**. This passage shows us the kinds of conversations God wants us to have in our homes. What are some of the components of this conversation as seen in verses 20-25? What makes it easy/hard for you to have conversations like this with your kids or other family members?
5. **Read Psalm 139:1-24.** Verses 13-16 point out the uniqueness of how each person was created. Think of one or two of your family members. How has God created them uniquely when it comes to: their body, intellect, personality, emotions and their soul?
6. **Read Galatians 6:1-10.** Think of a time that one of your family members helped you to “bear your burden.” Describe what that experience was like for you.
7. **Read John 1:1-18.** Jesus is called the “word” and the “light” in this passage. How do both of those metaphors describe Jesus accurately? How is he a “word” and a “light” in your life?
8. **Isaiah 53** says that Jesus was “despised and rejected” by men. Verses 10-11 describe this phenomenon from John’s perspective. How was this like Joseph’s experience in **Genesis 37**?

**Next Steps:** Consider how you will take one step in one of these areas:

As a parent- Weed out generational sinfulness, Affirm the uniqueness of each family member, Be fully present, or Recognize God as the true hero.

As one who never “wore the robe”- Acknowledge the hurt, renounce envious actions, Accept God’s love

As one who “wore the robe”- put yourself in places where you are not the center of attention.

**Prayer Thought:**

Lord, we love and worship your mighty name; you are our God. We confess our brokenness and our tendencies to sin in the ways of Jacob and his sons. We offer our thanks to you for our families, be they kind and supportive or seriously dysfunctional. We humbly ask that you guide us through our family challenges and that you help us to honor and respect our family members for their unique attributes. Finally Father, we thank you for our church, which provides us with ongoing opportunities to grow in our relationship with you. Amen