

**Sermon:** *Shattered Dreams and the Unseen Hand of God*  
**Series:** *Joseph: Trusting the Goodness of God*

**Scripture:** Gen. 37:1-36  
**Date:** February 9, 2020

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?**

Where do you see yourself in the story? Joseph? Jacob? The brothers?

Read Hebrews 3:13. In what way was Jacob's family hardened by the deceitfulness of sin? In what ways have you seen yourself be deceived by sin? How can your group help you with this?

**2) What does this passage teach us about God?**

Why do you think God is never mentioned in this chapter? Is God there? Read Genesis 50:20 as a reminder. What does this verse tell us about God's sovereignty? His love?

How would you answer this statement: "A good God would not allow bad things to happen"?

**3) What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace? How does it point to Christ?**

How does Joseph's life and suffering point to the life and suffering of Jesus?

Like Joseph, Jesus was stripped of his robe so that we could all wear his robe of grace and glory. How can this truth sustain you in your ongoing suffering or sin struggle?

**APPLICATION**

How does this passage comfort you? Encourage you? Challenge you?

What lesson might God be trying to teach you in your suffering? More importantly what truth about the gospel might he be trying to teach you in your suffering?

Discuss this quote: "God allows what he hates so that he can accomplish what he loves."  
– Joni E. Tada.

**PRAYER**

Praise God for his sovereign control over everything in your life, even the evil things. Ask God to reveal the destructive sin in your life. Confess this sin to him, and declare your trust in God and his plan.