

Study Guide on Message: Joseph's Family



Use this set of questions to explore the message more deeply—whether in personal reflection, around the table, or in a small group discussion.

During Small Group

Choose a Weekly Leader –

The leader's role is simply to keep the discussion focused and guide the group through the questions. This does not need to be the same person each week.

Read the Passage – Have someone read the passage aloud.

Work Through the Questions –

Questions are divided into three sections: **Exegetical**, **Sermon**, and **Personal Reflection**. You do not need to answer every question;

Pray for One Another –

Keep prayer requests brief so there's time for everyone to share.

Time Length: Aim for about 1–1.5 hours. This is a guideline; adjust as needed for different schedules, especially in the morning

Ice Breaker Question

“What is one funny trait or habit that seems to run in your family?”

“Who in your family are you most like, and in what way?”

“What is one good trait you hope you picked up from your family?”

Questions about the Bible....

In Genesis 37:1–4, what details does the passage give us about Joseph, Jacob, and Joseph's brothers? What seems most important?

Verse 3 says Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons. What effects did Jacob's favoritism have on the family?

Verse 4 says Joseph's brothers "hated him and could not speak peacefully to him." What does that tell us about how deeply the conflict had already developed?

Why is it important to notice that the brothers hated Joseph before he told them about his dreams?

Compare Genesis 37:3–4 with Genesis 25:28. What similarities do you see between Jacob's childhood family and the family he later created?

What does Jacob's story teach us about the danger of repeating unhealthy patterns we grew up with?

In Genesis 34, how did Simeon and Levi respond to what happened to Dinah? What was understandable about their anger, and where did their response become sinful?

Genesis 35:22 records Reuben's sin with Bilhah. What does this add to the picture of the family Joseph was growing up in?

Looking at Genesis 25–37 as a whole, what kinds of dysfunction keep appearing in this family?

What does it tell us about God that He continues to work through this family despite all of its sin and

Questions that get to your Soul.....

I recommend setting aside one of your daily devotion times to work through these questions. Depending on how honest you're willing to get with yourself and with God, it might take around 30-60 minutes. I know it's a long time, but hey, 30 min is worth growing in sanctification right? Be as specific as possible. And if you're feeling really brave, consider sharing one or two of your answers with your small group.

1. What stands out to you most about the dysfunction in Joseph's family?
2. Are there patterns from your family background that you have seen repeat themselves in your own life?
3. How can pain that is never dealt with turn into anger, resentment, or unhealthy behaviour toward other people?
4. What do you really believe about God when it comes to the broken areas of your family or your past?
5. What is one area of your life where you need to believe that your family history does not have to become your destiny? ?

Questions to help us Disciple each other.

In light of what you learned, Did you do something about it?

If you did something about it, What happened?

If you didn't do anything about it, Why not?

How Can I help out obey what you learned this week?

Questions about the Message...

The most encouraging Thought I heard in the message was....

The most challenging thought I had in the message was

The Most confusing thought I heard was.....

