

# Sermon Discussion Questions

**Speaker:** Dr. Stephen Burrell

**Topic:** Genesis

**Scripture:** Gen 37:1-36

## Opening:

Begin with prayer, asking God to help the group see His wisdom in Joseph's story and to apply His Word with humility and faith.

## Give Background & Context:

Joseph was seventeen and lived with his family in Canaan. The dysfunction in Jacob's family is longstanding—favoritism, rivalry, and deception have marked them for generations. Joseph's dreams foreshadow God's plan to elevate him, but his brothers interpret these dreams only through jealousy rather than faith.

- Read Genesis 37:1–11
  - In verses 3–4, how did Joseph's family dynamics (favoritism, jealousy, insecurity) create the perfect environment for conflict? Where do you see similar dynamics in families or relationships today?
  - Joseph's dreams (Gen. 37:5–11) revealed God's plan long before Joseph was mature enough to handle it. How does God sometimes give us glimpses of our future—or calling—before we are ready? Have you ever experienced something similar?
- Read Genesis 37:12–24
  - In verses 18–24, how does jealousy distort judgment and conscience? Discuss a time when jealousy or comparison led to sinful attitudes or actions.
- Read Genesis 37:25–36
  - In Genesis 37:25, Joseph's brothers sit down to eat while he screams from a pit. What does this reveal about the hardening power of sin? Why does prolonged anger or resentment numb compassion?
  - Look at Genesis 37:31–35 again. Jacob mourns the loss of Joseph through a deception involving a goat, mirroring his own deception of Isaac. How does this detail teach us about the long-term consequences of deceit and broken trust?
  - Genesis 37:36 shows God quietly working behind the scenes by placing Joseph in Potiphar's house. Where have you seen God's sovereignty working quietly in your life—especially in painful seasons?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
  - Read Genesis 50:19–21. Joseph refused a victim mentality and instead saw God's purpose. What allowed Joseph to interpret his suffering differently from his brothers? Which part of Joseph's statement ("you meant evil... God meant it for good") challenges you most?
  - Review the Victim vs. Overcomer behaviors from the sermon. Which victim behaviors do you see most commonly in our culture—or in your own heart? Which overcomer behavior do you want God to strengthen in you this week?
  - Read Romans 8:28 and James 1:2–4. How do these passages reinforce the overcomer mindset? Why is it difficult to hold onto hope, gratitude, and purpose during suffering?
  - Looking at the 10 beliefs of an overcomer, which one is hardest for you to embrace and why? How would adopting that belief change the way you interpret your current circumstances?