



## INTRODUCTION

The sons of Jacob brutally abuse their brother Joseph and cruelly deceive their father Jacob leading to great sorrow and suffering. Yet God rules through it all for his good purposes.

## INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore, please use it as a tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

## OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- **Bonus thought** that didn't make the sermon: Just as Jacob would send his youngest son to check on his older brothers, so Jesse would send his youngest son to check on his older brothers. Both events would lead to the deliverance of the people of God by the godly acts of the younger brother.

## REVIEW

- Read **Gen 37:12-36**
- What parallels do you see with the conflict between Cain and Able and what does that tell us?
- What do you think of Reuben? Judah?
- Knowing the end of the story, where do you see God working in Gen 37?
- How does the story of Joseph point us toward Christ?

## APPLICATION

- In what ways do you identify with Joseph? Jacob? The brothers?
- How does Joseph's suffering show us that we can trust God?
- What does this story teach us about God orchestrating every detail of our lives?
- Does your faith typically follow your feelings or facts? Discuss.
- In the midst of trial we should look at what we know. What truths help you endure trial?

## PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?