

DREAMS AND DESTINY

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

SERIES OVERVIEW

This year our church is performing the classic musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. What a perfect time to explore the biblical story on which it is based! In this series we will follow the adventures of Joseph, the hated younger brother of Jacob's family who experiences one hardship after another, despite his faithfulness to God. As the story proceeds, however, it becomes increasingly obvious that Joseph has a destiny to be God's instrument for salvation. Even though God never speaks in the story, it is clear that he is working behind the scenes to bring about his ultimate purpose: the salvation of not just the Israelites, but of the entire world.

WEEK 1 - THE DESPISED DREAMER OVERVIEW

Our story begins with the family of Jacob, Abraham's grandson, living as shepherds in the Judean hill country. Here we meet Jacob's oldest son, Joseph. Young and a bit aloof, Joseph angers his brothers by sharing dreams in which his family bows to him. Although these dreams are, in fact, glimpses of exactly what will one day happen, they so infuriate Joseph's brothers that they choose to sell him into slavery and convince Jacob his favored son is dead. Although it may seem that all hope is lost for young Joseph as he is led away in chains, we quickly realize that God is orchestrating a master plan. Joseph's slavery leads him to be noticed by the head of Pharaoh's palace guard and promoted to become his personal attendant. As it turns out (in Joseph's life as well as our own): God is working, even when we can't see it.

*The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did
as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.*

Genesis 39:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a dream that you believed was from God? What was it about?
2. Read [Genesis 37:1-36](#). Describe the relationship Joseph had with his brothers.
3. Consider these lessons Amy shared:
 - Lesson #1: God can and will work in and through any dysfunction in your life.* What does this mean to you? How have you seen this to be true?
 - Lesson #2: Lead with humility and wisdom.* How can we learn this lesson from Joseph?
 - Lesson #3: It's not transforming your behavior, it's allowing God to transform your heart.* What is the difference between these?
 - Lesson #4: Don't try to thwart God's plans.* How would you know if you were thwarting God's plan?
 - Lesson #5: Stand up for what is right.* How could standing up for what is right have changed the story of Joseph?
 - Lesson #6: God is working even when we don't see it.* In what ways was God working behind the scenes in this part of Joseph's story?
 - Lesson #7: Be a servant leader.* Read [Matthew 20:26](#). How is Joseph a servant leader?
 - Lesson #8: God has a dream for each one of us.* Do you know what he has called you to? Do you know where you fit in His story? Where do you/have you seen Him at work to make that dream happen?