



WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE: JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY

LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD:

Read GENESIS 37. Share any SOAP Journal Entries from this passage.

1. How would you describe Joseph's relationship with his brothers?
2. Could Joseph have prevented the jealousy of his brothers? Why or why not?
3. How would you describe his relationship with his father Jacob? What are some danger signs in verses 3-4? Have you ever seen these signs in your family?
4. In verses 21-27 Reuben and Judah came to Joseph's defense. What reasons do each give for wanting to preserve their brother's life? Can you think of any other reasons?

LOOKING INWARD

5. How do you see God's sovereign hand at work throughout this chapter?
6. How do you see God's hand at work in your own life?
7. How was God already developing Joseph's gifts at the age of 17?
8. God "broke" Joseph by taking him out of comfortable circumstances and stretching him. God often has to "break" us before He can use us. How has God "broken" you? How did it "strengthen" you?

PRAYER: To be willing to let God make you usable for his purposes.

Adapted from BY FAITH ALONE: A STUDY ON THE CHARACTERS OF HEBREWS 11 by Crickett Keeth, from www.bible.org.

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: Genesis 39

S – Scripture – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O – Observation – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A – Application – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P – Prayer – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.