



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joseph: A Story of Redemption

Can People Change?

Genesis 37: 1-11

In this sermon series, we will explore how only God can mold and shape our lives so that true change can occur.

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He said to them, Listen to this dream that I dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf. His brothers said to him, Are you indeed to reign over us? So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.” **Genesis 37: 1-8***

Thomas points out that if we are going to be truly shaped and changed, then we cannot be the author of that true change. Changing our circumstances or some parts of our lives does not bring forth real change.

- *Think about and discuss any patterns that may exist in your life that God may be using to shape and mold you. Spend some time this week asking those people closest to you in what ways they feel you could change.*

Thomas used the analogy of a triangle to illustrate how opening ourselves up to God can re-shape us. The three visible lines, representing circumstances, are what we tend to compare to other people. When we get in touch with how God wants to change us, however, the lines in our lives begin to change as we instead focus on the angles. This type of change can occur through establishing basic disciplines within the four rhythms of the first church: Pray, Study, Share, Give.

- *Using the Life Guide, discuss what it can look like for you to live within each of the four rhythms this year: Pray, Study, Share, Give. Discuss ways in which God can be encountered in these routine practices so that He can begin to change our hearts, minds, and wills.*

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK *Heavenly Father, we ask that you teach us what “working the angles” can look like for us. Help us to establish the basic disciplines this year that will draw us closer to you and allow you to mold and shape us into the person you created us to be. Amen.*

