



## Part 1: Shattered Dreams Group Discussion Guide

H

### HIGHLIGHT

Read **Genesis 37** aloud.

E

### EXPLAIN

We have all been at the place where we feel like, “All my dreams have been shattered.”

How important is the life of Joseph in Genesis? Commentator John Phillips says it best: “One quarter of Genesis is devoted to Joseph. God dismisses the creation of the universe in five words...He made the stars also, but He devotes chapter after chapter to the story of a man who was not even in the Messianic line.”

How do our dreams get shattered in life? There are warning signs we see in Genesis 37. We live in a state of personal preference and rejection. We also try to take matters into our own hands.

Joseph comes from a pretty messed up family. His father had to navigate the emotions of four different wives. His grandfather was liar Laban and his uncle was temperamental Esau. We often paint our own future with our own brush. Jacob had lost touch with God and reality. There are way too many fathers and families that have done the same. The end result is always shattered dreams. In the midst of this mess, we see a beautiful picture of God’s grace to sinners. We see Christ!

Nothing but shattered dreams arise when we reject Christ and His plan for our lives. These brothers did not want to hear about it. The brothers operated in the same way we do today. We hate authority. Christ has all authority over our lives. One day we will bow down to the absolute Lordship of Jesus (*Philippians 2:10-11*).

Broken lives lead to broken dreams! Will you take your life out of your hands and place it in the hands of God? F.B. Meyer said, “It is very sweet, as life passes by, to be able to look back on dark and mysterious events, and to trace the hand of God where we once saw only the malice and cruelty of man.”

## APPLICATION

What are some similarities we see so far between Joseph and Jesus Christ?

How familiar are you with the story of Joseph? What are some things from this text that surprised you or that you haven't noticed before?

When in your life have you experienced a time where you said, "All my dreams are shattered." Are you going through a time like that now?

Tensions were high in Jacob's family as he played favorites with his children. What makes this attitude so dangerous?

Joseph's brothers operated in the same way we do today. We hate authority. Christ has all authority over our lives. Are your dreams shattered because you never included surrendering to the complete Lordship of Christ over your life?

Joseph's brothers took matters into their own hands and hatched a plan to get rid of him. Have you ever just taken things into your own hands and left God completely out of the process?

## RESPOND

Praise God for His authority over everything, including our lives. Thank him for being rejected by his brothers so that we could be accepted by God through his death. Ask him for the grace to give all of your plans to him. Repent of those times that you've tried work out your own life on your own without seeking the Lord. Pray for those whose lives have been shattered; especially during this time.

