



Small Group Notes for An Outsider's Guide to Teenagers

Discovering Together

Are teenagers the same today as when you were that age?

Learning Together

1. Although the final 14 chapters of Genesis focus mostly on Jacob's son Joseph, why is this story called 'the account of Jacob [or Israel]' (Genesis 37:1 - 4)?
2. The early verses of chapter 37 set the scene of the tension that existed between Joseph and his brothers. Describe the nature of the relationship that emerges from these early verses (37:2 - 4).
3. How did the bad relationship between Joseph and his brothers affect the way they responded to his first dream (37:5 - 8)?
4. How was Jacob's response to Joseph's second dream both similar and different to that of his other sons (37:9 - 11)?
5. Explain how verses 12 - 20 reveal some of the ignorance of both Joseph and his father in regard to the level of hatred that Joseph's brothers had for him.
6. Why do you think the eldest son Reuben (and to a lesser extent Judah) wanted to save Joseph from being harmed by the other brothers (37:21 - 30)?
7. Reflect on how Joseph's coat becomes both a symbol of his father's love for him and his brothers' hatred of him (compare 37:3 - 4 to 37:31 - 34).
8. What further things do the final verses of this chapter (37:34 - 36) reveal to us about the broken nature of this family? Where is God in all of this?
9. To what extent can you relate to this broken family?
10. Would a teenager today answer these questions in the same way as you have?

Serving Together

What can you do to recognise and help reconcile broken family relationships.