

Joseph and Leadership

St Mary's Homegroup studies

Autumn 2017, Number 1.



St. Mary's Church
Haddenham

Poor Relationships Lead to a Rough Start in Life

Two opening questions:

What do you think about the story of Joseph in the Bible?

Is it more than the story of a boy with a multi-coloured coat?

It is a story of ups and downs and yet more ups and downs. And yet it is a story of God's providence, and ended with the rescue of Joseph's family from certain starvation. In the next six weeks we will look at Joseph's life in some detail in both our sermon series and our homegroup studies.

Read Genesis 37: 1-11

1. What do we think about Jacob (Israel) in this passage?
2. What are your thoughts about Joseph?
3. Was Joseph wise to share his dreams in the way he did?
4. If you were one of Joseph's brothers how would you feel?
5. What does this tell us about family relationships?
6. Are there other contexts where the story of Joseph and his dreams might be helpful? In work? In church?

Read Genesis 37: 12-36

Things in life don't always go as expected. Joseph was the favourite son, and had every expectation that he would inherit well and have a comfortable life. Perhaps what happened next is not that surprising given the poor relationships within the family.

7. Imagine that you are one of Joseph's brothers. Why would you want to kill him? How do you justify yourself?
8. What was Reuben's role in this story? Why did he act as he did?
9. Why did Judah act in the way he did?
10. The chapter ends with Joseph being taken to Egypt as a slave. How did he feel? How did his brothers and father feel?
11. What lessons can we learn from this story for our families, our work and international politics today?

Resources

The sermons on Joseph are already starting to appear on the [benefice website](http://www.wychertvale.org/joseph-autumn-2017/), and are worth listening to before, during or after your study: <http://www.wychertvale.org/joseph-autumn-2017/>

We recommend the following book by Al Erisman who teaches with Margot and me on the Bible and Culture course in Berlin. Al was an executive with Boeing and then taught at Business School. He relates Joseph's life to the business context, but the book is useful in wider contexts.

Albert M Erisman (2015) *The Accidental Executive: Lessons on Business, Faith, and Calling from the Life of Joseph*. Hendrickson.
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Accidental-Executive-Lessons-Business-Calling/dp/1619706210/>