

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

### **Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 37:1-17**

Our study this week will shift from Jacob's life to Joseph's. Joseph is the first born of Rachel and number 11 of the 12 sons. Where will the beginning of our story be located (vs. 1)? To get a feel for family dynamics, read verses 2-4. What did you learn about Joseph? Basically, we learn Joseph is a shepherd under his other brothers, a snitch and Dad's favorite. Now read verses 5-9. What dreams does Joseph have and what do they mean? How does this go over with the brothers? Consider your family, if you were Joseph and had these dreams how would your family react? Who else does Joseph share this second dream with (vs. 10)? What is his reaction (vss. 10-11)? Why do you think Jacob pondered the dreams? Now read verses 12-17. What does Jacob ask Joseph to do? When Joseph couldn't find his brothers, what happened (vs. 15)? Where does the man tell him about his brothers (vs. 17)? What does this text tell us about Joseph? What does this text tell us about God's plans? How does Joseph's actions contribute to his brothers' reactions to him? Tradition would have it that the first born would follow in his father's footsteps and take over. In this case that person would be Reuben. Does it seem like that will be the case according to God based on what we read? How do we sometimes get full of ourselves and how does that offend other people? How does Jesus' teaching on humility help us to avoid this relational pitfall? Spend some time today with God and ask Him to show you where you have suffered from "Josephitis." Then ask for forgiveness and help to avoid this pitfall in the future.

### **Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 37:18-36**

We pick-up today with Joseph heading to the find his brothers in Dothan. As you read verses 18-20, what are the brothers plotting and why? What is the driving emotion behind this plan? How does this point to how dangerous it is for us to live out of emotion all the time? But not everyone is on board with killing Joseph. Who is against it and what was his plan (vss. 21-22)? Well Reuben's good natured thoughts must have rubbed off on the others for the plans change once again. What is the new plan (vss. 23-27)? What caused the change of heart in Judah (vs. 26-27)? How much did they sell Joseph for (vs. 28)? And off Joseph goes as a slave to Egypt. Now that this was done, whom do we discover was not part of the plan (vss. 29-30)? What do the brothers do to cover up what they have done (vss. 31-32)? What grief did they cause (vss. 33-35)? How do you think the brothers felt after they watch their father grieve so deeply and for so long? We finish this section with what happens to Joseph. What do we learn (vs. 36)? The brothers thought they could just get rid of their problem. Did it have the result they hoped for? What happens when we manipulate and maneuver to get things our way? How do you feel when others do that to you? What is one thing you learn about ourselves from this story? What do you learn about God?

### **Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 38**

Today we take a break in the action of Joseph's story and we learn a little bit about Jacob's son Judah. So whom does Judah marry and how many children do they have (vss. 1-5)? What happens next (vss. 6-11)? For Tamar, she would remain in mourning until remarried to Shelah and would not obtain any respectful status without a child. So what happens (vs. 12-23)? Do you see a pattern of deception going on here? Everyone has their agendas and will do what it takes to accomplish them. What is the outcome of these deceptions (vss. 24-25)? What is Judah's response (vs. 26)? Why do you think he says Tamar is more righteous? How does this story end (vss. 27-30)? These two children will become the clans of Perezites and Zerahites. They are from the line of Judah, the tribe in which Jerusalem and the Temple will rise. Knowing what will come, what does this tell us about God in this mess? What does this tell us about ourselves? Do you see a pattern of taking control and handling things ourselves thus far? What might we learn from this? Spend some time in prayer and silence today listening for God's Spirit to speak to you about where you are operating like Judah or Tamar. Consider what might happen if you gave up control to God? What might be different in your life?

### **Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 39:1-6**

We now resume Joseph's story in Egypt. What do the traders do with Joseph when they reach Egypt (vs. 1)? Imagine how Joseph must have felt by now. How would you feel in his position? But all is not lost in these trying times. How do we know this (vs. 2)? What benefit did this provide for Joseph (vss. 3-6)? Although Joseph is still a slave, we see that Joseph is blessed by God and things are not as bad as they could be for him. Do you see a change in Joseph's attitude or behavior? How has this turn of events humbled Joseph? How has God blessed and protected Joseph? When have you been a trying time in your life and still saw God was working in the midst? Spend some time in prayer asking God to make Himself present in your times of trial so you can humbly receive all that God has for you.

### **Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 39:7-23**

We close this week with the end of this part of Joseph's story and it is not good. As you read verse 7, what trouble do you see lurking in the future? How does Joseph respond to this temptation (vss. 8-9)? Even though Joseph has made the right decision, the temptation has not stopped. What happens next (vss. 10-12)? What happened when Joseph fled the room (vss. 13-18)? God gives us free-will and that included Potiphar's wife. When she did not get what she wanted, she lies and sets Joseph up. How does Potiphar respond to his wife's story (vss. 19-20)? Although things have gone from bad to worse, what reassurance is the reader given (vss. 21-23)? So while in prison, God has not abandoned him and even has blessed him so that his prison stint, while demeaning and bad, is not as bad as it could have been. God is with Joseph every step of the way working out His plan. While the Lord had blessed Joseph, Joseph needed to live into the blessing. What does this reveal to us about Joseph's character. What about Joseph's character through this whole chapter? Do you live into the character and image of God in your life? Is this a daily lifestyle or just something we do when convenient? How would living into the blessings of God help us as we struggle through the difficult times of life? How might it help us to accept our lot in life more easily? So, as we finish this week, what have we learned about ourselves? What have you learned about God? And which parts of these lessons point to Jesus?

### **Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Genesis 41:37-43**