**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ May 1, 2022**

**Family Drama**

Genesis 37:1-11

**Key Truth:** God uses trials, tragedies, and temptations to shape you into His perfect will.

**The Story Unfolds**:

1. Joseph was born into a dysfunctional family of favoritism,

jealousy, and mistrust. **Genesis 29:31-35, 30:1, 9**

2. Jacob was a pampering and passive father.

A. Not only did Jacob internally love Joseph more than his

other sons, but he also externally showed them that he

loved Joseph more. **Genesis 37:3-4, Ephesians 6:4**

3. Joseph was young and naïve in how to relate to his brothers.

**Genesis 37:2, 5-8**

A. Joseph had great promise and purpose, but his character

needed to be developed.

4. Joseph’s brothers were envious and jealous of his

relationship with their father.

A. Their hatred blinded them to the truths about their own

behavior. **Genesis 34:25-31, Genesis 35:22**

**What We Learn:**

1. God uses imperfect people to accomplish His purposes.

2. Parental favoritism is destructive to the family’s

cohesiveness.

3. Spiritual giftedness doesn’t equal relational maturity.

4. A dream detoured is not a dream denied. **Genesis 37:19-20**

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Thank God for His presence, power, and purpose in every circumstance you face. Trust the process and purpose of God.

**Connection Group Discussion Questions**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What about in the day to day of regular life—do you embrace unexpected stops or interruptions, or are you usually trying to make it to the end of the day?

Wouldn’t it have been great if someone could have pointed out to Joseph how his actions were affecting his relationship with his brothers? Identify the behaviors in the verses below that, at times, people may not be able to see in their own lives.

Proverbs 29:11

Proverbs 29:20

Proverbs 11:13

Proverbs 13:10

Read Genesis 37:3-10: Why did Joseph’s father love him more than the others? How did that favoritism impact Joseph and his relationships?

Besides jealousy, why was it difficult for Joseph’s brothers to hear his dreams?

Describe a time in your life when you needed some development to take place before being able to fully live out your God-given destiny.

Read Genesis 37:21-28, 36: In what ways was God with Joseph, even during the horrific trial he was going through? In what ways would these terrible events later prove to be a positive life detour?