

# Life Group Discussion Guide

PLAYING FAVORITES

*Genesis 37:1-3*

Stuart Jones - July 8, 2018



FABRIC

## INTRODUCTION

Seventeen-year-old Joseph helped his older half-brothers herd their father's flocks. Here are two more things you need to know. "Joseph brought his father bad reports on them. Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons...." Genesis 37:2-3 (MSG)

It's easy to understand why the brothers wanted to do away with Joseph. The events that followed were complicated to say the least. Thankfully, God has a way of using life's complicated events to produce positive results. Although we don't like complications, they are easier to face when we understand God can use them to make us who He wants us to be.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell the group about a big moment in your life that shaped the very fabric of who you are.
2. Have you been a favorite of a teacher, boss or parent? Tell us about it. Or, have you ever had to deal with someone who was a favorite? You can share that too.

## EVALUATE IT

1. Read Genesis 37:1-4. What was the root of the sibling rivalry between Joseph and his brothers? How is this a direct result of the home Jacob was raised in?
2. Why is jealousy such a powerful emotion? What is an effective way of dealing with jealousy?
3. Stuart said that we have, "Incredible threads that should be highlights and beauty within the fabric of your life that are being damaged by the influence of others." How does this occur? How do people damage our highlights and beauty?
4. Jacob continued the dysfunction of the previous generation, so how do we recognize dysfunction in our lives whether we develop it or borrow it from previous generations?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Answer the question Stuart asked, "Are you damaging the yarn of someone else with your influence? Are you playing favorites or promoting arrogance?"
2. Jacob's mom obviously had a negative impact on him. What negative characteristics have you struggled with or worked to shake off that were passed onto you by your family?

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"As Screwtape once quoted to Wormwood their father's couplet,  
Old error in new dress  
Is ever error nonetheless."

- Walter Martin, *Screwtape Writes Again*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?  
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

Jason Fox  
270-765-4994  
jason@fccetown.com