

Life Group Discussion Guide

STOPPING THE DISEASE IN THE FAMILY TREE

Genesis 12-37

Jason Fox - July 1, 2018



FABRIC

INTRODUCTION

If you look at the life of Joseph in the Old Testament, you may wonder how Joseph got past his family history, especially his brothers' hatred of him and selling him into slavery.

Joseph turned to God who taught him how to rise from the heavy load of his family's past and how to forgive those who wronged him. Melissa Spoelstra in her book, *Joseph, the Journey to Forgiveness*, said "We miss the blessings of today when we are stuck in resentment for things that happened yesterday."

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell the group about something valuable you have from previous generations in your family (Ex: quilt, antique furniture, pocket watch, etc.).
2. How have you been influenced either in thinking, habits, skills or employment by previous generations?

EVALUATE IT

1. How is Joseph's history full of deception all the way back to his great-grandfather, Abraham?
2. What led to flaws in the fabric of Joseph's family history? What things keep people today from weaving the beautiful fabric God desires for our lives?
3. What kind of person was Jacob, from the time he was young until he sought to make amends with his brother Esau? How are children influenced who grow up in a home like this?
4. What are the dangers of comparing our fabric (that may have some flaws) to someone else's fabric that may be pristine? Why are we tempted to do this?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What cycles or trends in your family history do you need to stop? Which ones do you need to continue?
2. What kind of fabric are you weaving right now? If it is pristine, what are you thankful for? If it has a few flaws, how can we pray for you?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"How fearful and how wonderful are man's terrible and glorious capacities and possibilities....it is said that every man's life contains sufficient material for a great novel!"

- Clarence McCartney



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

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