

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Whiplash

**Week 1: Family Dysfunction**  
**Genesis 37**

**Week of August 22, 2021**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Life is like a roller coaster, filled with unexpected twists and turns. Through our study of the life of Joseph, we can see how God equips us to survive life's ups and downs. This week, we examine how certain dynamics in our families — the good, the bad, and the ugly — affect each of us.

**Kicking it off:** Many people have a love-hate relationship with roller coasters. How about you? Love 'em or hate 'em? (And what makes you feel that way?)

### Discussion:

1. As we examine God's story of humanity, we see that Joseph was born into a very significant family in the Bible. How does Jacob/Israel's story begin with a prophetic blessing from Jacob's dad, the patriarch, Isaac? (Read Genesis 27:29.)

*"May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed."*

2. How did a competitive sibling rivalry begin early in Joseph's family? (Re-read Genesis 37:3-4.)

*"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him."*

3. Thinking about your own family of origin, what type of "sibling rivalry" comes to mind? How do you relate to Joseph and his older brothers? (If you grew up an only child, perhaps some friends or childhood neighbors come to mind?)
4. Jeff described living in a tension of wanting our families to be perfect, but realizing every family is far from perfect. How can God use imperfect families to advance His cause?
5. How does knowing that God has great plans for each of His kids bring you comfort today? (As you parent, in dealing with your own parents, or in dealing with your grown siblings or adult children.)
6. Take a look at Romans 12:15-16. What are some keys to living in relationship with others, especially our families?

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited."*

### Wrapping It Up:

In your group, share one of life's recent ups and downs where you felt God wanted you to trust Him more. As you close in prayer, ask God to help open your eyes to learn and grow from the life of Joseph.