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Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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### Joseph Pt. 1 – Dreams Delayed

Genesis 37, 39 & 40

Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

#### Central Passage

**Genesis 37:5–11 (ESV)** — **5** Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ... **8** His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" **So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.** **9** Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers ... **10** But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "**What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?**" **11** And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

**Central Thought:** God uses difficult people and challenging circumstances to deepen our faith and develop our character so that his dreams for us will come true.

**Matthew 16:24 (ESV)** — **24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

#### God Dreamers and Christ Followers are often...

- ❖ Misunderstood and mistreated by their families (Gen. 37)
- ❖ Pursued and persecuted by pagans (Gen. 39)
- ❖ Abandoned by those they assist (Gen. 40)

#### When Dreams are Delayed...

- ❖ We can honor God regardless of the circumstances.
- ❖ We can know that God is with us and working for our good and his glory.

**Genesis 39:2 (ESV)** — **2** The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master...

**Genesis 39:21–23 (ESV)** — **21** But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **22** And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. **23** The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

**1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)** — **19** So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator **and continue to do good.**

**Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)** — **23** Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

**James 1:2–4 (ESV)** — **2** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

#### Homework

- ❖ Read and reflect on Genesis 37, 38 & 40, and 1 Peter 4.
- ❖ Prayerfully consider how you can stay faithful to God's purpose for you, while you are waiting for his promises to be fulfilled.