

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Legacy

November 23 & 24, 2019

When we die, we take nothing with us, but we leave much behind. Some for better, and some for worse. Jacob passed along some of his own family dysfunction to the next generation, but he also left the foundation for the Twelve Tribes of Israel. And his youngest son, Joseph, becomes the new hero of the biblical story. We all leave a legacy behind. The question is whether we will leave it to chance or design it each day.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 37:1-11

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

It's interesting that verse 2 tells us that this is the story of Jacob. But in reality this is the story of Joseph. In many ways the story of our children is the continuation of our story, part of the legacy that we leave. That was certainly true for Jacob and Joseph. Three reasons are given for the brothers' hatred of Joseph. First, he's a tattletale. Second, Jacob favors him above his other sons, probably because he is the child of Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. And third, Joseph's dreams.

Our legacy is that part of our story which we have yet to write. But in a sense, we are writing it by how we live. The choices that Jacob made and continues to make impact what he will leave behind. By the grace of God, even Jacob's failures, as well as his brothers are redeemed. And that's where this part of the story intersects with the Gospel. This message will challenge us to think about the legacy we wish to leave, and the choices we can make to begin writing that story. But in the end we entrust it all to God who can take what we offer – the good and the bad – and somehow redeem it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you think it felt like to be Jacob in this story? How about Joseph?
- How did your parents choices impact you?
- When you think of your legacy, what comes to mind? What legacy would you like to leave?
- What changes would you consider making to leave the legacy your heart desires?
- How does your legacy give shape to your greatest hopes and dreams for the future?

APPLICATION: This week, consider choices you've made in the past that you believe will impact your legacy. As you write those in your story, reflect on how God has used those experiences to shape you.