



Throughout our lives, circumstances and people can hurt or disadvantage us. We can feel that we are the victims in our difficult situations. But if we look at these struggles from the right vantage point, they can become powerful tools in God's hands to shape us into overcomers. In this series, we're going to gain insight into how we can move from being victims to overcomers as we look at how God's plan unfolds in the life of Joseph.

### **Week One: My Dysfunctional Family**

Would you call your family "dysfunctional"? This week we look at the life of Joseph and see that God works out his plan for you even through a dysfunctional family and by placing you in his forever family.

**Text: Genesis 29:30-30:24**

**Discussion Questions: These three larger questions will drive our discussion:**

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

**What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?**

- Describe your family growing up. What were some of the helpful and hurtful things you experienced? What are some of the wounds you have that still hurt today?
- Jacob experienced favoritism growing up (see Genesis 25:21-28, 27:1-35), but also participated in favoritism (see Genesis 29:16-30). How does favoritism affect the people in a family?

### **What are you going to do about it?**

- Have you faced a hardship in your past that has a tendency to pull your attention back rather than allowing you to look forward?
- How is God's family different from human families (see Romans 8:15-17)? As you ponder what God has done for you in Jesus, share your insights of how God may be using the pain and problems of your past to accomplish his will.

### **How can others in this group help you or pray for you?**

- Regarding hardships of the past that keep us from looking forward, pray for healing and for the ability to see God's hand at work.
- Pray that group members would find their identity as a member of God's forever family—the child of a Father who is always acting for us, faithful to his promises, and never plays favorites.

### **Christ and Culture – Making Sense of Today's World**

The Engage team, together with HCBC Community Impact, has put together a four week video series with facilitator guides if small groups would like to diver deeper into the election, the Supreme Court battle, COVID continuation, and any other topic that is being overly-politized. This can equip us to help keep our focus on the main thing – God is in control and He has good plans for us. We want to maintain our witness during these times and not alienate the people we are called to reach. Take a look at the short intro video and session outlines to get an overview of the series:

<https://www.engage-citizen.com/class/>

The Engage Team is available to assist any small group leader. They are also offering a Saturday morning Zoom format class from 9:30am – 11am starting October 10 to run through the 4-wk series for those who may be struggling with current events.

Here is the registration link for that offering:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehbbzcf7f04d2af&lr=texh7rrab>