

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

August 7-13, 2017

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=366353040>).

Other readings are: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

The theme is: Jealousy.

History repeats itself in the saga of Jacob's family. Jacob, like his father before him, has a favorite son, Joseph; and sibling rivalry is tearing the family apart. Jacob makes no attempt to hide the favoritism, even giving Joseph a "long robe with sleeves" (verse 3), a garment that would have been associated with royalty. Jacob, who stepped in front of his own older brother to claim a position of privilege, is setting the stage for Joseph to do the same. Joseph has dreams that appear to support the notion that he is superior to his brothers and becomes a "snitch," carrying bad reports about his brothers to their father. When Jacob sends Joseph into the fields to do some spying on his siblings, the brothers decide to get even with the "dreamer" and act on their rage. There is a plot to kill Joseph, but brother Rueben persuades the others to leave him alive in the bottom of a pit. Unknown to them, Rueben plans to return later and rescue Joseph. So the brothers take the famous coat and leave Joseph in the pit; but before Rueben can rescue him, Judah convinces the brothers to sell Joseph to a group of slave traders who are headed to Egypt. It is this plot twist that puts Joseph in position to eventually bring salvation to his people.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

We may delight in the fact that we have not stolen anyone's birthright or sold anyone into slavery, but how do we stand by and allow injustices to occur?

What stops us from taking a stand?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of August 6:

How can we as a church provide a safe space for those who are wrestling with God?

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