

## HIS STORY

- How has favoritism harmed you or others in a family, at school, or in some other setting?
- Why is it important that we affirm the image of God in all persons?
- We can learn from Joseph's brothers, because no matter how much we may not like what God is doing, we can trust that God's plan for our future is better than any plan we can come up with for ourselves. What are some dreams you have for your future? How might God's plans be better?
- Why can jealousy be more harmful than anger or fury?
- What can make us envy God's plan for someone else rather than accept the one He has laid out for us?
- How have you seen God turn around situations for His glory and our good?



## Essential Doctrine

**Temptation and Sin** | Temptation is not the equivalent of sin. Temptation can refer to natural and good desires that are twisted and directed toward pleasing of self rather than giving glory to God. Jesus was tempted like we are (Matt. 4), and yet He never sinned, but faithfully resisted temptation and followed the will of His Father. Knowing our weakness, we are to be on guard against temptation (Matt. 26:41) that may lead us to sin, and we pray for God to deliver us from evil (Matt. 6:13).



## Christ Connection

Joseph was his father's beloved son who was betrayed by his own brothers and sold into slavery. Jesus is the Father's beloved Son who was betrayed by His own and died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.



## In Defense

Skeptics try to use the existence of evil and suffering as an argument to prove God doesn't exist. Why is this impossible? They would need to prove God doesn't have good reasons to permit evil and suffering in our world, which is difficult since we are not omniscient like God. What's more interesting is that atheists who reject God on the basis of evil in the world actually hurt their argument in the end. Think about it: If you do away with God, then you do away with objective goodness; if you do away with objective goodness, you do away with its opposite (evil). By rejecting God, the atheist has no leg to stand on when making moral pronouncements like "human trafficking is wrong" or "racism is bad."

## OUR MISSION

### HEAD



- **How does Joseph's story so far challenge our understanding of suffering in the Christian life?**
- **Which is better: to never have to suffer or to know and experience the presence of God in life, through the good times and bad? Why?**

### HEART



- **What are some ways you intentionally put a strain on your body in order to be better prepared for the future? How can the same truth apply to our character?**
- **What challenges have you faced that prepared you to handle future challenges and blessings?**

### HANDS



- **What makes it challenging for us as God's people to take a stand against sin in our culture?**
- **How might spending more time in God's Word motivate us to stand against sin and for the gospel?**