

Sunday, September 18, 2022
Summary of The Dreamer
Genesis 37:1-11
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To everyone there belongs a biography. There are reasons why we are as we are. If the Bible told us stories only of people who came from good backgrounds and developed into strong men and women of God, most of us would end up being very discouraged. But it doesn't. The Bible talks about life as it really is: petty, messy, full of strained relationships, dysfunctional, unfair, and sometimes even murderously violent. That is what life was like for Joseph growing up in Jacob's family, with its two wives and two further surrogate mothers so that there were in the family one husband and four 'wives,' with thirteen children distributed among them. The family contained all the ingredients for a psychological nightmare. We are told that Jacob loved Joseph, which is good for a father to do, but the problem was that he loved Joseph more than his other sons. Another problem was that Jacob didn't keep his preference under control but expressed it by giving Joseph a magnificent robe, a many-colored robe that distinguished him visibly from the other brothers. Jacob of all people should have known better and should have seen that this was an unwise move. He had himself been born into a family split over who loved whom and why. Isaac, his father, loved Esau because he was his type of outdoor man, and Rebekah loved Jacob. This rivalry led to endless problems. Yet, as often happens, Jacob didn't profit from his own experience. In consequence, he was condemned to see his preference for Joseph cause bitter and far-reaching dissension that wrought havoc with his family relationships over many years.