

OCTOBER 20, 2019 • DAVID SMITH

# Character Matters

As Christ-followers, we don't just show the way, we lead the way. But what does it look like for all of us to lead? How do we lead from where God has us right now? Let's look at some real-life examples from the Bible and learn how it's done.



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## INTRODUCTION

If we are to lead the way, character matters. In our second sermon of the *Lead the Way* series, character is defined as being the imprint of Jesus. The story of Joseph is also examined to determine what traits are valuable to God in developing our character.

## STARTER QUESTION

What are some character traits of successful leaders? Do you think these traits are valued by both society and God, or is there a point where the definitions of character diverge?

## INTO THE WORD

Review Genesis 37-50

What elements of Joseph's character most inspires you? How do you think Joseph's character lines up with Peter's definition in 2 Peter 1:3-9? How do you think it lines up with the definition provided by pastor David as "the imprint of Jesus?"

How do you think Joseph's character matured with adversity? Why does it seem that hardship instigates growth in the Church and in individuals?

God spoke to Joseph through dreams. What spiritual practices have you found useful for hearing from God?

## APPLICATION

Discuss the idea of living and modeling a positive attitude regardless of circumstances. Why do you think this is so hard? What are some things you've discovered that have helped you in this area? Aside from a negative attitude, what other challenges or "character killers" do you think deter spiritual growth?

If Hebrews 1:3a is a description of Jesus' character, what adjustments might you need to make to line up your character as an imprint of Jesus'? How also might you need to be intentional about investing in the character of those around you?

## PRAYER

We know that what is impossible with men is possible with God. If you are in a time of hardship or feel trapped in an impossible situation, pray that you can take Joseph's attitude of waiting on God and that He will grow in you the traits of integrity, discipline, humility, faithfulness, grace, and wisdom.