

2. How does this compare with Jesus' instructions on how to live in **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18**?

THE LAST DAYS OF JACOB AND JOSEPH

Genesis 48-50

3. It's clear that in God's eyes, character counts for a lot more than reputation. Write down some of the qualities in **Psalms 15** of holy living.

How do these qualities show strong character?

TAKING IT HOME

1. This week Efrem talked about leaving a legacy of character. What character qualities would you want to leave for others as a legacy (if you are a parent, what character qualities would you want to leave for your children)?

2. Spend some time giving thanks for the ways God is developing and will develop your character.

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of October 24, 2010

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's sermon, was there anything that surprised you, confused you, or particularly caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. This week's message wraps up our "How God Develops Character" series. Your homework will give you some space to reflect on how God has been speaking to you through this series. Below are the titles and topics of each of the messages. Circle the one or two below that God spoke to you the most, and use the next page to write down how He spoke to you.

Joseph is Sold Into Egypt – Joseph grew up in a family with problems and experienced a "caravan" moment when everything he knew was stripped away from him.

Joseph and Potiphar – Joseph wasn't living the dream God gave him, yet his decisions remind us that we have questions to ask in Potiphar's house.

Joseph in Prison – we talked about Biblical responses to the different causes of suffering: your sin, other's sin (intentional and unintentional), not ever knowing why, and redemptive suffering.

Joseph in the Palace – Joseph's dream was fulfilled, but in a way he could have never guessed. We can't shape our character ourselves, but we need to be in God's hands.

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt – the difference between forgiveness and trust/reconciliation and how Judah repents and receives God's blessing.

The Last Days of Jacob and Joseph – Efrem Smith wrapped up our series this week on the legacy of character.

2. What are some of the key lessons you learned from this series about how God develops your character?

3. How have these lessons helped you with situations you are currently going through?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We started this series talking about how most of us are concerned about our reputation (what people think of us) more than our character. Jesus confronts the religious Pharisees about this in **Luke 11:37-44**. In your own words, what does Jesus accuse the Pharisees of? (*Note: Nothing spread ritual impurity as severely as a corpse; Pharisees believed that one contracted impurity if even one's shadow touched a corpse or grave. Inconspicuous tombs would be whitewashed each spring to warn passersby to avoid them and so to avoid impurity.*)