



## Part 2: The Ragged Individual

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*The object of a New Year is  
not that we should have a New Year.  
It is that we should have a new soul.*  
– G.K. Chesterton

### **The backstory on Jacob, the father of Joseph**

Jacob was a momma's boy

Jacob was a con man

Jacob was hunted by his own family

Jacob wrestled with God and embraced a transformation

Jacob played favorites within his own family

### **Genesis 37:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

<sup>2</sup> This is the account of Jacob.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

### **The Question:**

How would my life be different if I was  
absolutely convinced in every moment, no matter  
how good or how bad, that God was with me?

### **The Lie Christians Most Often Believe:**

I can do this on my own.

*(Continues on back)*

## **The Truth: Hebrews 10:24-25**

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Next Steps**

Group Fair: Today we'll end the service about ten minutes early so you can head to the Meeting Place for our first ever Groups Fair. Come see what kind of groups are being offered and meet people who are part of these groups. This is the perfect, low-pressure next step to getting involved in regular, face-to-face Christian community.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What is your backstory? Share a little about your ancestors (parents, grandparents, or genealogy).
- 2) Was there any favoritism in your family system? Were you the favorite or the other kid? How have you processed this as an adult?
- 3) What cycles (good or bad) can you find in your own family systems that are being repeated generation after generation? What is your role in breaking the bad cycles?
- 4) What lies has Satan told you? How did you find out the truth of God?
- 5) Read Genesis 37. How are you like or unlike Joseph?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?