

# The Shaping of A Man

## "A Shaky Past"

January 11, 2006

*"Now Israel (Jacob) 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. 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." Genesis 37:3-4*

## SUMMARY:

The past influences but does not determine our future. We are all affected by our family and the decisions of past generations. However, we can choose a different path than the one on which we were raised or are now traveling. Allow God to be your companion and guide on your life journey. The Lord will shape you into the man He desires for you to be.

## NOTES:

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

**Introductory Question:** Describe your family background using only three words.

### **Discussion:**

- How has your family's past impacted your life?
- What role has God played in changing and influencing the patterns in your life and those of your family?

## APPLICATION:

Think about your past, the environment in which you were raised. Make a list of all the positive points as well as those you consider negative. Take time to pray, asking God,

- To forgive your part in the mistakes of the past knowing that He will forgive you when you repent
- To provide you with insight, wisdom and strength to make choices regardless of life's circumstances to live honoring Him.

If you are married or dating, sit down with your wife/girlfriend and ask her about her past environment. You will may learn a great deal.

## ON YOUR OWN...

Read Genesis Chapters 27 thru 35 to better understand the background from which Joseph emerged.