

Welcome	Share a time when you were corrected as a child which helped you to mature.
Worship	<i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship: 1 Abba, Father; 79 Dear Lord and Father (vv.1,4,5,6); 138 God of grace; 156 Have thine own way, Lord; 441 Only by grace can we enter; (NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i>
	<i>The sermon from Sunday’s service is available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘Downloads’ tab)</i>
<u>Read</u> John 7:1-6	This week we begin a new series on the life of Joseph, from Genesis 37-50. It begins with his experience of problems in his family. Jesus knew about such things! What was the attitude of Jesus’ brothers here - jealous, cautious, taunting, sceptical, encouraging? Why did they not ‘believe’ in him? Do you find it hard to acknowledge ‘success’ in people close to you (eg family members)? Why/ why not?
Genesis 37 vv.2-11 <u>vv.17b-24</u> <u>vv.23-36</u>	Read the whole chapter aloud if you can (you could allocate ‘parts’ to Jacob, Joseph, brothers, Reuben, Judah, etc.) The focus is on vv. 2-11 and 17b-24, 28, 36 Who was to blame for the brothers’ actions later in the chapter: them (v.2,8), Jacob (v.3-4), Joseph (5-9) or a mixture of all the above? Were they right to be jealous and hate him? Do think God was right to give Joseph this gift of dreaming when he was so immature? How can we ensure that people’s character and gifts are developed together, so that their gifts are used appropriately and sensitively? How would you have felt at this outcome to your hopes? Are there times when your dream (what God has promised you) hasn’t been fulfilled? How should we respond? If this part of Joseph’s life were a ‘rollercoaster’, which parts would be ‘down’ and which ‘up’? Can you see the hidden hand of God in the ‘up’ parts? Where? Look ahead to ch. 39 vv.2-3 and 5. How do you think Joseph looked back on the events of chapter 37 – only with regret and disappointment, or also with thankfulness and faith? What can we learn from his maturing attitude? Taking the ‘long view’, how does this story affirm your understanding of God’s sovereignty over the events of our lives and of his dealings with his people?
Witness	<u>Pray</u> ❖ thank God for his grace in our lives and for his work in ‘shaping’ us even through difficult times ❖ pray for your mission link person(s) or project ❖ for those experiencing disappointment, that they will know God’s encouragement <u>Plan</u> ❖ pray and plan for upcoming ‘guest’ opportunities – Cygnets plus (Sept. 18 th); Bev speaking at Village hotel FGB dinner (21 st Sept); Harvest supper at St B’s (Oct. 3 rd).