

## THE GARMENTS YOU WEAR

Your actions reveal the clothing you are wearing!

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Because of man's sin near the beginning of time, clothing was instituted by God! Sin gave mankind the consciousness of nakedness and God was the first clothing designer! Our clothes say a lot about us!
- ❖ In biblical tradition, giving someone an article of clothing was symbolic, signifying comradeship, alliance, a brotherhood, as in 1 Samuel 18:3-4 (NIV):  
<sup>3</sup> And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.
- ❖ In 2 Kings 2:8-15, power is transferred when Elijah's coat is passed on to Elijah. In Numbers 20:28, Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar – a transfer of the priestly office! Jacob made a colourful coat only for Joseph, showing an expression of his fatherly love (Genesis 37:3).
- ❖ Clothing also identifies us in literal ways! For example, nurses, firefighters, police and correctional officers are identified by their uniforms. Outside of work, you may not know who they are, but once the uniform is on, that person is no longer a guy crossing the street, but someone you'll think twice about speeding past.
- ❖ Before Joseph got the coat from his father, he was feeding the flock with his brothers! When he got the coat from Jacob, we never see him in the field again, except to check on his brothers on behalf of his father. That coat was too special to be worn while shepherding. To Joseph's brothers, it may have indicated family leadership coming from the second-youngest son! It was special, symbolizing favouritism.
- ❖ Joseph was sold as a slave into Egypt – without his colourful coat – and his father lost the son of his old age! Joseph had to wear the coat of humility as God stripped him of everything he knew; everything familiar to him. And yet he remained faithful to God!
- ❖ Fear may have entered his heart knowing that he was leaving behind the father that loved him so much. Nonetheless, there was another Father and another covering that could not be seen with the naked eye! God was with Joseph! God's mercy and grace gave him covering! God's favour blanketed him.
- ❖ Joseph's brothers, on the other hand, wore the coat of jealousy! Jealousy will move you to do things that are wrong and out of the ordinary! It is a coat that we need to put off. (See Proverbs 27:4.)

### KEY SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-13, 23, 26-28, 31-35

- ❖ Later in the Bible we read of the regret of these brothers! They did not forget what they had done to Joseph. They had mental anguish and, evidently, for many years, anticipated punishment for their wrong (see Gen. 42:21).
- ❖ When people go through rough patches in their lives, we don't know what journey God has them on. They may even land in prison as Joseph did (Gen. 39), but we should not put on our judgmental coat. Pray for them; pray that they triumph over life's challenges!
- ❖ "Knock-off items" come at a cheaper price. They may look like, but are not, "the real thing." We must be careful of the people around us who are not genuine. Jesus warned against such people in Matthew 23:27. They are like wolves disguised in sheep's clothing.
- ❖ What are you wearing today? Maybe Louis Vuitton, with lying and vanity. Maybe Christian Dior, with cheating and deceit.
- ❖ What are you wearing? On the outside you may look good, but on the inside, you reveal whose coat you truly are wearing! God wants to cover you with his robe of righteousness! He wants you to be under His garment, His covering, and His armour!

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. The scriptures give many clear directions of how we are to dress as believers/children of God/followers of Jesus Christ. Copy and complete the following chart, individually and/or as a group. (Add to the chart scriptures that come to mind or that you seek/find in the Bible.)

Scripture	Item(s) of "Clothing"	Take Off/ Put On?
<b>2 Chron. 6:41</b>		
<b>Is. 52:1</b>		
<b>Eph. 4:2, 22, 25</b>		
<b>Eph. 4:24</b>		
<b>Col. 3:8-9</b>		
<b>Col. 3:10, 12, 14</b>		
<b>1 Thess. 5:8</b>		

### PRAYER TIME

Pray according to Eph. 5:19-20, Col. 3:16-17, and/or other suitable scriptures, in Jesus' name.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)    💡 (New idea)    🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this)    ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)    ↔ (Must share)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What is your favourite/least favourite outfit/clothing to wear and why?