
ROOTS
A Study in Genesis



LESSON 21 GENESIS 37- 40

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Genesis 34-36** was helpful to you?

2. As you read or skim **Genesis 37-40**, pray and ask God to reveal Himself and His specific encouragement just for you.

3. Read **37:1-4**. What do we know about Joseph, and how would you describe his relationship with his brothers?

4. In your opinion, what was it about Joseph's two dreams that were so upsetting to his brothers in **V5-11**?

5. a) **In V12-17** Jacob sent his beloved son, Joseph, to check on his brothers who were grazing their father's flocks, and to report back to him. What took place when Joseph found them in **V18-28**?

- b) Have you or someone you know experienced rejection or betrayal from those closest to you or them (perhaps also due to jealousy or resentment)? Describe the circumstances and outcome.

6. What do you think about the brother's plan to cover-up their terrible actions in **V29-35**? Do you find any irony given some of what we know about Jacob and his past?

Note: **Chapter 38** records an interesting 'side story' of Joseph's brother Judah, which we will address in "Gospel Glimpses" section.

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7. **Read 39:1-5.** Once in Egypt, Joseph was bought by Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard.
- Though separated from home and family, who was with Joseph, and what happened as a result of this? (See also **V21-23.**)

 - Write a truth about God as you reflect on this.
8. While only a young man, what reasons did Joseph give when he refused Potiphar's wife's advances, and what actions did he ultimately take in **V6-12**? What does this reveal about his character?
9. Read **V13-20.** Joseph paid a high price for maintaining his integrity. Have you ever been pressured to compromise your integrity? Share about this time including the consequences or outcome.
10. How do you reconcile the fact that "the Lord was with Joseph", and yet he was imprisoned on false charges in **V20b-23**? How did God tangibly demonstrate his presence with Joseph while in prison?
11. In your own words, what does **1 Peter 2:20-21** teach us about facing unjust suffering?
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12. In **Genesis 40:1-23** we see that two of Pharaoh's officials ended up under Joseph's care in prison. Joseph helped them accurately interpret their dreams, yet the cupbearer forgot about him once he was released from prison.
- What do you think kept Joseph from giving up hope?

b) Describe a time in your life that you have also felt forgotten (perhaps by someone you had helped). How does **Romans 5:3-5** encourage you?

13. Read **Matthew 28:20b**. How do Jesus' words help you to grow deep **ROOTS** of assurance of His presence in your life during any dark seasons (past, present or future)?

“GOSPEL GLIMPSES”: Throughout the Book of Genesis, we will see previews of Jesus, and a foreshadowing of the Gospel (the Salvation Story).

1. Read or skim **Genesis 38**. What surprises you as you consider that both Judah and Tamar are in the family tree of Jesus? Explain.

2. Joseph brothers hated Joseph. What similarity do you see in Jesus' relationship with his family members in **Mark 3:20-21** and **John 7:3-5**?

3. Joseph faithfully resisted sexual temptation at the hands of Potiphar's wife. To a much grander scale, what does **Hebrews 4:15** teach us of how Jesus handled temptation? (See also **Matthew 4:1-11**.)

4. How do you connect Joseph and his story so far with what Peter taught to the early Christians and to us in **1 Peter 4:12-16**, and what are some ways his life foreshadows Christ?

5. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Romans 5:3-5**

b) Pray thanking God for His presence during the dark seasons of your life.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST