

MEN OF THE WORD

The Life of Joseph
Genesis 37-50



COMMUNITY
BIBLE CHURCH

Schedule

9/13,14	Introduction		
9/20,21	Lesson One	Genesis 37	Betrayal
9/27,28	Lesson Two	Genesis 39	Temptation
10/4,5	Lesson Three	Genesis 40-41	Success
10/11,12	Lesson Four	Genesis 42-44	Forgiveness
10/18,19	<i>No lesson Fall Break</i>		
10/25,26	Lesson Five	Genesis 45-47	Reunion
11/1,2	Lesson Six	Genesis 48-50	Legacy

LESSON 1 – GENESIS 37 – BETRAYAL

DAY ONE

1. What do the following verses tell you about the spiritual condition of the family of Jacob-Israel? [Give a phrase or short sentence summary.]

a. Genesis 34: 13-17, 24-29 in particular

b. Gen 35:2

c. Gen 35:22

d. Gen 36:2-3

e. Gen 38-39

2. Jacob had 4 wives and 12 sons [Gen 35:23-26]. Think through some of the problems this household might have had.

3. Can you think of any reasons God may have allowed Jacob to marry more than one woman at a time?

DAY TWO

1. From Gen 37:2-11, give reasons why Joseph was hated by his brothers.
2. Why was Joseph Jacob's favorite son?
3. How do you not show favoritism when you do have a favorite? How might you have counseled Jacob in his display of favoritism toward Joseph? What would you have done differently?
4. Why do you think Joseph told his brothers about his dreams?
5. Tie God's promise to Jacob from Gen 35 with his response to Joseph's dream [37:11].

DAY THREE

1. Dig Deeper: Did Jacob have any reason to be concerned about his sons pasturing the flocks near Shechem? [see Gen 33-34]
2. What tells you Jacob is probably not aware of the depth of his other sons' animosity toward Joseph? How deep was their hatred, according to vs. 18-20?
3. Why do you think Reuben intervened in their plot to kill Joseph and planned to rescue him later? [Gen 35:22]
4. Describe the scene in Gen 37:23-25a, connecting it with Gen 42:21. Have you ever thrown anyone into the pit [refused to share the gospel b/c you were jealous of someone, etc.]? What will you do about that today?
5. What do these verses reveal about the character of Judah?

DAY FOUR

1. Who were the Ishmaelites? How are they related to Abraham?
2. Where was Reuben when all these events took place?
3. Reuben quickly moved to plan B, orchestrating the lie to their father Jacob. Did Jacob respond the way they expected?

DAY FIVE

1. Referring back to Day One, Question 1, why do you think God chose to move Joseph to Egypt?
2. Reread this chapter with God's character in mind. What attributes stand out to you? Cite the verse w/ the attribute.
3. How will you choose to live differently because of what you've learned this week? What one thing can you do that will cause others to be reminded of God's character, plan or purpose?

Notes

LESSON 2 – GENESIS 39 – TEMPTATION

DAY ONE: Read Genesis 39

1. 'The Lord was with Joseph' is repeated in this chapter several times. Note the verses which state that and the verses which prove it.

2. Dig Deeper: What are some NT verses that give the assurance of God's presence w/ believers today.

3. Are you sure that His presence is with you at all times? What gives you that personal assurance?

DAY TWO: Genesis 39:1-6 Potiphar's Purchase

1. What advantages did Joseph have as a slave in the household of Potiphar?
2. Think thru some of the challenges Joseph had to overcome to succeed in Potiphar's house.
3. What character traits in Joseph are revealed in these verses?
4. Why did Potiphar trust Joseph?
5. Why should your spouse, employer, friends, co-workers, children trust you?
What are some things we do that cause people not to trust us?

DAY THREE: Genesis 39:7-19 Temptation

1. From verses 7-12, what steps did Joseph take to resist Mrs. Potiphar's temptation? [Cite verses.]

2. Sexual sin is an enormous problem today. What steps do you take to resist the temptation to sin, generally, and this sin in particular?

a. Spiritual

b. Practical

3. Who ultimately is offended whenever we sin?

4. How does the scenario in verses 13-18 bring to mind the events in Gen 3 in the Garden of Eden?

DAY FOUR: Genesis 39:19-23

1. Put yourself in Potiphar's place when he returned. Is there any evidence to suggest that he might not have believed his wife?

2. Put yourself in Joseph's situation. He was jailed for doing the right thing. What was God teaching him through this difficult circumstance?

3. Give an example from your life where you were seemingly punished for doing what is right. What did God teach you through that difficult circumstance?

4. Do you think Joseph needed to cooperate w/ God's grace to find favor in the eyes of the chief jailer? In what ways would he have done that?

DAY FIVE: Reread Genesis 39

1. How is God's faithfulness to Joseph revealed in this chapter?
2. How is God's grace revealed in this chapter?
3. How is God's holiness seen in this chapter?
4. How is God's providence revealed in chapter 39?
5. How have God's grace, faithfulness, holiness and providences been revealed in this chapter of your own life? Share some examples.

Notes

LESSON 3 – GENESIS 40-41 – SUCCESS

DAY ONE: Please read Genesis 40-41

1. From the above chapters, what attribute of God stands out to you and why?
[cite verse]

2. Dreams are a way that God spoke to men in these chapters. Can you think of a reason why He chose this particular way to communicate w/ men?

3. a. How does God communicate truth to mankind today?

b. What can you do so that you hear Him clearly?

DAY TWO: Genesis 40

1. What in verses 1-6 indicates that Joseph had learned how to 'survive and thrive' no matter the circumstances he was in?
2. How can [will] you apply that to your own life?
3. Do you think it was reasonable for Joseph to ask the cupbearer to appeal to Pharaoh on his behalf? Why or why not?
4. What characteristic of Joseph do you see in his interpretation of the baker's dream?

DAY THREE: Genesis 41:1-32

1. Imagine being forgotten for two years by someone who could help you get out of difficult circumstances. What could you do to redeem that time for God's glory? What do most people do in a similar situation? What did Joseph do?
2. In one sentence, summarize Pharaoh's dreams.
3. How does Joseph glorify God in Genesis 41:16 and what does that tell you about his character?
4. What principle about God's communication to man is in 41:32? Has God revealed something to you specifically more than once? What did you do about that?
5. How many times does Joseph refer to God in Gen. 14-32? [cite verses]
6. Joseph uses the name Elohim for God, rather than Jehovah. Why would this name for God cause Pharaoh to listen and obey the message?

DAY FOUR: Genesis 41:33-36

1. Joseph gave Pharaoh God's Word in the interpretation of his dreams. In what way did he also show Pharaoh how to apply God's Word?

2. How do Christians learn to apply God's Word today?

a. John 14:16-17

b. John 16:13-14

c. Ephesians 4:11

d. James 1:2-4

e. James 1:5-6

f. Romans 6:17

3. Please share with your group one example of how you have personally applied God's Word since beginning this study of Joseph's life.

DAY FIVE: Genesis 41:37-57

1. What did Pharaoh recognize in Joseph that caused him to promote him?
2. How did thirteen years in slavery prepare Joseph to succeed in this position of absolute power? Think of several ways.
3. What do the names of Joseph's sons suggest to you about Joseph at this point in his life?

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LESSON 4 – GENESIS 42:1-45:8 – FORGIVENESS

DAY ONE: Genesis 41:53-45:8

1. List as many ways as you can, with scriptural support from this passage, where Joseph is a type of Christ.
2. Of the above Christlike characteristics, which one is pre-eminent in your mind and why?
3. How could you better represent Jesus Christ to the world through your own life today?

DAY TWO: Genesis 41:53-42:38

1. Why do you think Joseph's brothers did not recognize him?

2. What resulted from this first test in the hearts of his brothers?

3. Why do you think Joseph chose Simeon to stay in Egypt as his prisoner?

4. Why would Joseph return their money with the grain and how is this act related to salvation in Jesus Christ?

5. Jacob refused to send Benjamin to Egypt. What do you learn from this about his spiritual state these past twenty years?
 - a. Have you had similar times in your own life?

 - b. What encourages you to get out of them?

DAY THREE: Genesis 43

1. Compare Reuben's offer and Judah's offer to Jacob. What do you think made the difference in Jacob's decision to allow Benjamin to go to Egypt?

2. Dig Deeper: What evidence of Judah's character transformation can you discern since the events of Genesis 38?

3. From Genesis 43:16-34, find as much as you can that would confuse, encourage or cause the brothers to fear in this banquet scene.

a. Confuse

b. Encourage

c. Cause Fear

DAY FOUR: Genesis 44

1. What motive would Joseph have for hiding the cup in Benjamin's sack?

2. a. How did Judah respond to Joseph?

b. What was it about Judah's response that let Joseph know the time was right to reveal his true identity?

3. How can one relate Judah's confession in Genesis 44:16 to understanding who Jesus Christ is?

4. If you have come to that place of understanding who Jesus Christ is, would you briefly share your testimony with your group?

DAY FIVE: Genesis 45:1-8

1. In revealing himself as their brother, Joseph stated their culpability within God's purpose. What phrase did he use and can you back up the principle in that phrase with a New Testament verse?
2. How many times did Joseph repeat 'God sent me' and why is that significant?
3. What do you learn from Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers that you will apply to your own life?

Notes

LESSON 5 – GENESIS 45:9-47:31 – REUNION

DAY ONE: Please read Genesis 45:9-46:7

1. In what way is Joseph a type of Christ in Genesis 45:10-11? Connect this verse w/ John 14:2.

2. What about Joseph's instructions to his brothers encourages you ?

3. How did Jacob know for certain that it was God calling him at Beersheba?

4. What do you learn from Genesis 21:31 and 28:10 about this place?

5. Dig Deeper:
 - a. From the following references, summarize the responses to God's call.
 1. Genesis 46:2

 2. Genesis 22:1

Cont on next page

3. Genesis 16:7-11

4. Isaiah 6:8

b. What has been your response to God's call for your life?

6. Dig Deeper: Why would Jacob need divine assurance that it was safe to take his family to Egypt? [i.e. Genesis 26:2 – Isaac his father was told 'no'.]

DAY TWO: Please read Genesis 46:8-34

1. a. List the names of Jacob's 12 sons according to their mothers?

1. Leah

2. Zilpah

3. Rachel

4. Bilhah

b. Which son had the most sons of his own?

c. How many [men] came to live in Egypt? Cite verse.

2. Describe the reunion between Joseph and Jacob.

3. Find Goshen on a map. Why was this a preferred place for Israel to sojourn? Give several reasons.

DAY THREE: Genesis 46:31-47:19

1. Joseph prepared his family before their audience with Pharaoh. What did he tell them and why? How did they respond to his instructions?

2. Look up the word [sojourn]. Given that meaning, how would Pharaoh be more accepting of their coming to live in Egypt?

3. What is surprising to you in Genesis 47:7-11? What principle does this scene illustrate?

4. a. In Genesis 47:9, Jacob describes his life. What does this reveal about his choices in life?

b. Carry that thought to your life. How would you describe your life thus far, and what choices could you make from now on to make it pleasant?

DAY FOUR: Genesis 47:13-31

1. Joseph provided for his family in Goshen, yet the famine was severe in all the land. What steps were taken to preserve the Egyptian people alive?
2. During this five-year period of famine, how was God's blessing to Israel evident?
3. Can you share an example from your life where God's blessing was evident in difficult circumstances?

DAY FIVE: Please read Genesis 45-47

1. What aspect of God's character stands out to you in these chapters and why?
2. From these chapters, list as many ways that you see Christlikeness in Joseph, citing the verses.
3. As you think about the example of Joseph's conduct and character in these chapters, how could you apply his wise planning in your life circumstances?

Notes

LESSON 6 – GENESIS 48-50 – LEGACY

DAY ONE: Please read Genesis 47:27-31

1. How is God's faithfulness to Israel revealed in these verses?
2. What evidence do you see that Jacob trusted God's promises?
3. How do you intend to emulate Jacob at the end of your life and what are you doing today to help make that happen?

DAY TWO: Genesis 48:1-22

1. Summarize God's covenant promise to Jacob-Israel using Genesis 28:10-22, 35:1-15, 48:3-4.

2. Dig Deeper:

a. Looking at Genesis 28:10-22 again, what happened at Luz [Bethel] and how was Jacob changed by it?

b. Have you had a recent spiritual crisis and how did that change you?

3. What principle is revealed in Gen. 48:14-19? Can you think of other examples in the nation of Israel where this is true?

4. What is the implication for Joseph and Reuben in the blessing of his two sons by Jacob?

DAY FOUR: Genesis 49:29-50:14

1. Jacob gave very specific instructions about his burial.
 - a. In what way did Jacob worship God in his instructions for burial?

 - b. In what way did Jacob honor Leah in his last request?

2. What impressed you about Jacob's burial?

3. Have you given thought to your own memorial service? In what specific ways do you plan to honor God and your loved ones?

DAY FIVE: Genesis 50:15-26

1.
 - a. What do you think triggered the conversation in vs. 15-18?

 - b. How is Joseph's response to them like Jesus' response to those who repent?

 - c. Commit to memory Genesis 50:19-20 and share it with your group.

2. How does Joseph reveal his faith in God's promises and his trust in God's sovereignty?

3. Dig Deeper: Review all six lessons we've studied in Joseph's life and give an example of God's faithfulness in each one and Joseph's response to God's faithfulness.
 - a. Genesis 37

 - b. Genesis 39

Cont on next page

c. Genesis 40-41

d. Genesis 42:1-45:8

e. Genesis 45:9-47:31

f. Genesis 48-50

4. So what does this mean for your life? Prayerfully consider ~ how has God been faithful to you specifically through what you've learned and applied in this study? How have you responded to His faithfulness?

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