

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOES

A study of the lives of Joseph, Jonah, and Job

Joseph - Genesis 39,40

Lesson 2

Genesis 38 takes a detour that is not directly related to our study of Joseph. We will pick up our study in Genesis 39 where we find Joseph prospering as a steward of the captain of the guard in Egypt. Later in the chapter, and continuing through chapter 40, we find Joseph no longer serving in luxury, but confined to the austerity of an Egyptian prison. Diverse conditions, but the same LORD was *with* Joseph and the same LORD was *prospering* him. May we learn greatly from Joseph's example of serving the LORD, no matter the condition.

OBSERVATION: Read Genesis 39,40

1. Read through this week's verses preferably using the New King James Version Bible. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Although Joseph's brothers had forsaken him, the story of his journey in Egypt reminds us that *the LORD was with Joseph* (Genesis 39:2). The *LORD* (including the word *God*) is mentioned many times in Genesis 39. Make a list of what the chapter reveals about Him.
3. Scan one chapter at a time and make a list of what the text reveals about Joseph.

GENESIS 39

PROSPERING IN BLESSING: Read Genesis 39:1-6

1. Who *bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites*?
 - a. What was his title?
2. What authority did Joseph have over Potiphar's household?
3. What do you think it means *that the LORD was with Joseph*?
4. What did the LORD do for Joseph?
 - a. Define the word *prosper*.
 - b. Look up the following verses and share your thoughts as it relates to the believer's responsibility for God's prosperity.
Joshua 1:7,8

Psalm 1:1-3
5. Potiphar benefitted from Joseph's presence in his home. Read 1 Corinthians 7:14. The word *sanctified* in this verse refers to a setting apart. How might this verse parallel the blessings Potiphar received because of Joseph's relationship with the LORD?

VICTORIOUS IN TEMPTATION: Read Genesis 39:7-18

1. Everything seemed to be running smoothly for Joseph. He was trusted by Potiphar and all that he did *prospered*. Then something happened. What was it that changed the status quo of Joseph's position?
2. These circumstances must have been very tempting for Joseph. Define *temptation*.

3. How was Joseph able to resist the temptation of Potiphar's wife day after day?

4. What do the following verses teach us about temptation?

Psalm 119:165

Proverbs 2:10-12

Proverbs 4:14

Isaiah 33:15,16

a. Summarize what you learned from these verses.

5. Consider Proverbs 6:27,28 and explain it in your own words.

6. Read Matthew 26:41 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What do these verses tell us about being ready for temptation?

7. How do 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 and 2 Timothy 2:22 reveal the seriousness of yielding to sexual temptation?

8. Record the last sentence of Genesis 39:9.

a. Why is it wise to remember that God is deeply affected by our choices to sin?

FALSELY ACCUSED: Read Genesis 39:13-18

1. Although Joseph chose to honor God and flee temptation, what did Potiphar’s wife do?

2. Read Titus 3:3. What behaviors should no longer be prevalent in our lives?

3. Record the warning of Proverbs 19:5.

4. According to 1 Peter 2:21, whose *example* are we to *follow in suffering*?
 - a. Using 1 Peter 2:22,23, describe His *example*.

PROSPERING IN PRISON: Read Genesis 39:19-23

1. How did Joseph’s master, Potiphar, react after hearing his wife’s false accusations against Joseph?

2. From Genesis 39, note and record the similar phrases used in the account of Joseph living amongst Potiphar’s luxury and the prison’s austerity.

Verse	Potiphar’s Luxury	Verse	Prison’s Austerity
2,3		23	
3		23	
4		21	
4		22	

3. Most of us would prefer *prospering* in luxury as opposed to *prospering* in austerity. What can we learn from Joseph’s example?

GENESIS 40

THE PRISONER'S DREAMS: Read Genesis 40:1-19

1. *It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord. As a result, they were confined to prison in the same place Joseph was confined. Each of them had a dream. Joseph, giving God the glory for the ability to interpret dreams, asked them to tell him what they dreamed.*

Describe:

The chief butler's dream. verses 9-11

Joseph's interpretation of the chief butler's dream. verses 12,13

The chief baker's dream. verses 16,17

Joseph's interpretation of the baker's dream. verses 18,19

2. Read Genesis 40:14,15 and record what Joseph asked of the chief butler.

THE DREAMS' FULFILLMENT: Read Genesis 40:20-23

1. What happened on Pharaoh's birthday?
2. What did the chief butler *not remember*?
3. Take a moment to ask the Lord if there is anyone who has shown a kindness to you that you may have *forgotten*. If you rectified your neglect, describe what the process was like to honor what they had done.

4. Possibly, you identify with Joseph, the one who was forgotten. Record the cry of David from Psalm 31:12.

a. Ponder and record David's choice as written in Psalm 31:14,15a.

b. What do you learn from David's example?

REVIEW: Read Genesis 39,40

1. Describe the character and life of a person whom *God is with*.

2. What are some practical ways to resist sexual temptation?

3. How should you respond when you are mistreated by another person?

4. What are some lessons you learned from Joseph as you studied Genesis 39,40?

*For it is better, if it is the will of God,
to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.
- 1 Peter 3:17*