

Study Guide

Pray: Pray that God will show you something new in His Word and that you will be fully present as you consider these questions.

Read: Begin by reading Genesis 37 straight through, as you would read the chapters of any book. Try reading it twice, you may see new things the second time around!

Questions:

This week we have fewer questions.....so that in discussion time there will be more time for prayer and for hearing how we are coping in difficult (isolated circumstances).

1. There was obvious favoritism shown to Joseph by Jacob. His brother's hated him even before he shared the dreams....(he was a tattle tale by the account in v.2) Why do you think of Joseph's shared his dreams with his brothers?

Were you surprised at how the brothers reacted? What do you think motivated them?

2. Jacob (from now on called Israel, the name God gave him) sends Joseph to meet his brothers in _____. Do you recall anything about that city and why it may have been a place where there was ill feeling and Jacob wanted a report as to what the brothers were up to? (Read Genesis 34 v.25- 29)
3. Joseph's brothers plotted against him and planned to be rid of him. Judah suggests a way to make money and sells him for pieces of silver. It says that 'his brothers agreed' – how do we know that that did not include all the brothers? V.29 & 30
4. 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 (deceiver)?
5. Why do you think none of the brothers told their father the truth or stood up to others?
6. (personal question) Have you ever not stood up in defense, or remained silent when you could/should have spoken up? Ask for forgiveness and pray for strength for the next time.

7. 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**?

Did you notice other similarities between Joseph and Jesus - even as we are just beginning Joseph's story?

Joseph the shepherd, loved by his father, sent from home & his father's side, scorned by his own people, sold for silver, and not found when the pit/cistern/grave was searched.

We will see further similarities as study Joseph. His current situation at the end of Chapter 37 seems dire, his future uncertain and there will certainly be dark days and testing ahead. Throughout his life Joseph knew that he was blessed and that God was with him.

Remember that dear ladies as we face current uncertainties and expected dark days ahead. We do not face them alone, God is with us....and we are every bit as blessed, cherished and loved in these dark days as we are on bright and sunny ones.

- Pray thanking God for His presence during the dark seasons of your life and the uncertainties ahead.
- Pray for the nursing and frontline healthcare staff as they work long hours to save lives and prevent further losses.
- Pray for the police and other emergency services as they try to enforce regulations and deal with 'normal' incidents with a reduced workforce and under increased stress.
- Pray for families during this time of isolation and separation – too close for some families, too far apart for others.
- Pray for those who are working (supermarket, pharmacies and institutions like nursing homes) who work hard knowing they are exposed
- Pray for those who are not working or finding it hard to work from home. Pray that they would endure this time with grace and patience.
- Pray for the most vulnerable – that they may be protected from the virus and from fear.
- Thank you Lord that you are present with each and every one – whether they are aware of it or not.

Amen – read Psalm 23 and ask Elly about following her devotions on Psalm 23 if you are not yet receiving them