

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 39 & 40 straight through, as you would read the chapters of any book.

Questions:

1. Yet again in Genesis we have a chapters with surprises, twists and turns - was there anything one particular thing that surprised you or impacted you personally in the chapter this week?
2. Joseph was taken down to Egypt by the Ishmaelites and sold to Potiphar. Verse 3 says that Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph. What do you think were the things Potiphar noticed and attributed to God being with Joseph?
3. What evidence is there in the text that Potiphar's wife was persistent and determined (that her harassment was over time). What was the reason Joseph gave for refusing her?
4. a. Do you think Potiphar believed his wife? Who does it say Potiphar was angry with?

b. The penalty for rape of an officials wife was death....and Potiphar's wife had made her accusation public. Do you think Potiphar had a choice?
5. The presence of the Lord and granting of favor by those in authority continued with Joseph even in prison (v21-23). What hope does that give us when our circumstances change?
6. In contrast to some of the other main characters we read of in Genesis – Joseph does not have a direct encounter with God (ie God does not speak to, appear before or wrestle with him) nor is it recorded that Joseph gets angry with God or his circumstances. What do you think kept Joseph faithful and calm?
7. Where else in the Bible do we read of bread, wine, drinking from a cup, three days, death and

restoration?

8. How did you feel when you read chapter 39.v.23? How do you think Joseph felt?
9. a. Joseph's life had enormous ups and downs...but he maintained his integrity and faithfulness to those in authority and to God. What words would you use to describe Joseph in the last two chapters? Are they different from how we might have described young Joseph in Genesis 37
- b. Are the descriptors you gave for Joseph in Genesis 39 & 40 words that could be said of you?

Psalm 25 was written by David and is a prayer for defense, guidance and pardon. Read and pray this for yourself.

¹In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

²I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.

⁴Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.

⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, LORD, are good.