

RESCUE AND RESURRECTION

Genesis 37:1—39:23

The LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. Genesis 39:23

1. Read Genesis 37:1–11. God is going to save Jacob’s family despite how dysfunctional they are. What flaws do we see in: Joseph? Jacob? The brothers?
2. God-given dreams in those times, especially those repeated twice, confirmed God’s firm and settled purpose in a matter. What does God reveal of his plan through Joseph’s dreams? How do Jacob’s and the brothers’ reactions to the dreams differ?
3. Read Genesis 37:12–36. Describe what happens in this section. How does one action lead to another? What is the source of those actions? (See James 1:13–15.)
4. Read Genesis 38. The story of Joseph is interrupted to look at Judah. What did Judah do? (verses 1–10)
5. How has Judah done his daughter-in-law Tamar wrong and shirked his responsibility before God? (See Deuteronomy 25:5–6.)
6. To us Tamar’s behavior seems scandalous; nevertheless, what part does God give her in redemptive history? (Matthew 1:3)
7. Read Genesis 39. Why does Joseph prosper despite serious setbacks and persecution? (verses 2, 5, 21–23) Describe a time when you experienced God’s presence and blessing in the midst of adversity.

8. What are Joseph's reasons for refusing the advances of Potiphar's wife? (verses 8–9) What helps you to resist temptation? What doesn't help you?

9. God allows Joseph to suffer. What do these verses teach us about God's purposes in suffering? (Romans 5:3–5; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; 1 Peter 1:6–7, 9; 5:10) Name one thing you have learned during a time of suffering.

10. Verse 21 says that God was with Joseph and showed him kindness (literally “covenant loyalty”). How has God shown kindness to you? (Hebrews 7:22; 13:5b–6)