

***Patriarchs Study and Discussion Questions***  
*Lesson Eight: Lessons for Joseph and Judah – Genesis 37-40*

Overview and Genesis 37:1-11: Read questions 1-3 and then read Genesis 37-40 in one sitting.

- 1) List all the shocking situations in which Joseph finds himself in Genesis 37-40.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Note the reasons why Joseph's brothers hated him? Was Joseph partly to blame?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What character qualities do you think the Lord was developing in Joseph through these experiences?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What qualities might the Lord be forming in you through a trial or injustice you are currently experiencing?

Genesis 37:12-36

- 5) Which two of Joseph's brothers are specifically named? What role did each play in Joseph's mistreatment? What have we been told in previous chapters about these specific brothers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Reread Genesis 37:31-33. Recall Jacob's personal weakness. Describe how his example seems to have influenced his sons' characters.

- 7) Compare Genesis 37:34-35 with 37:10-11. Jacob believed for many years that Joseph was dead. What recollection may have baffled or haunted him in that time? What circumstances in your own past or present have left you puzzled about God's purpose?

### Genesis 38

- 8) Which three ancestors of Christ are named in Matthew 1:3 and have their stories told in Genesis 38?
- 9) From both Genesis 37 and 38, describe Judah's character.
- 10) Estimate the amount of time the events of chapter 38 may have taken. Recalling what you discovered by reading chapters 37-40, what was happening in Joseph's life during this same approximate period (compare 37:2 with 41:46-48, 50-54)? For what change (in yourself or someone else) have you waited and prayed a long time? Please guard against slandering anyone in your sharing.

### Genesis 39

- 11) Name the main characters in this chapter, including their titles and their relationship to Joseph.
- 12) How might Joseph have justified giving in to Potiphar's wife's pleas? What do verses 8-9 tell us about Joseph's actual perspective?

- 13) List all the phrases in chapter 39 (include verse numbers) that mention the Lord. What do Psalm 34:18 and Romans 8:28 say that explains these phrases in Genesis 39 and broadens your perspective about difficult circumstances?

#### Genesis 40

- 14) What subject matter in chapter 40 also appeared in the first chapter of this lesson (Genesis 37)?
- 15) How do Joseph's words in 40:8 show that he held a high view of God despite personal tragedies? Considering all you have learned in the Patriarch's lessons, what does it mean to you to hold a "high view" of God? How would raising your view of Him change your attitude toward a trial you are currently facing?