

IN THE BEGINNING GOD**The Transformations of Joseph and Judah****Genesis 37:1—39:23***“... the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.”* **Genesis 39:23****Day 1: Read Genesis 37:1–11.**

1. God is about to work salvation through Jacob’s dysfunctional family. Each member brings something to the mix. What character flaws do we see in:
 - Joseph?
 - Jacob?
 - The brothers?
2. Even though your family may be dysfunctional at times, how have you seen God at work in it?
3. God-given dreams in those times, especially those repeated twice, confirmed God’s firm and settled purpose in a matter. What does God here reveal of his plan through Joseph’s double dream?
4. Both the brothers and Jacob are disturbed by these dreams—the idea that Joseph will rule over his father and brothers.
 - a. How do Jacob’s and the brothers’ reactions differ? (37:11)
 - b. How are we to respond to the ways of God in our lives, particularly when they are baffling?

Day 2: Read Genesis 37:12–36.

5. As in the case of Cain’s hatred for Abel, what plan does the brothers’ hatred for Joseph lead to? What would more godly men have done? (Eph.4:26, 27, 31, 32; 1 Pet. 3:8–12)
6. What is the elder brother Reuben’s plan? (vv. 21, 22) How does it fare? (vv. 29, 30) Who hatches another plan? (vv. 26–28)
7. Discuss how in this passage one sin leads to another. (vv. 30–36)

Day 3: Read Genesis 38.

8. The narrative of Joseph is interrupted to shift the focus to Judah. How has Judah shown contempt for his father's and grandfather's earnestness to secure godly spouses, offspring, and company? (vv. 1–10)

9. How has Judah done his daughter-in-law Tamar wrong and shirked his responsibility before God? (Deut. 25:5, 6)

10. If Judah is able to call Tamar more righteous than himself even as she plays the part of a prostitute, what does this say about the state of his heart?

11. To us Tamar's behavior seems scandalous; nevertheless, what part does God give her in redemptive history? (Mt.1:3).

Day 4: Read Genesis 39.

12. Why does Joseph repeatedly prosper despite serious setbacks and persecution? (vv. 2, 5, 21–23)

13. Describe a time when you experienced God's presence and blessing in the midst of adversity.

14. What are Joseph's reasons for refusing the advances of Potiphar's wife? (vv. 8, 9) What helps you to resist temptation?

Day 5: Read Genesis 39.

15. God allows Joseph to suffer. What do these verses teach us about God's purposes in suffering? (Rom. 5:3–5; 2 Cor. 1:3–7; 1 Pet. 1:6, 7, 9; 5:10)

16. Verse 21 says that God was with Joseph and showed him kindness (literally "covenant loyalty"). What a strong cable that is to God's love! Do you and I enjoy the same? (Heb. 7:22; 13:5b–6)