

Cultivate Genesis Study
Chapter 39

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 39 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

In Chapter 39, we learn what happened to Joseph after he was sold to the Ishmaelites by his brothers. God had a plan for Joseph being taken to Egypt.

Read Chapter 39:1-6

"The LORD was with Joseph." Despite being ripped from his loving father and brought to a foreign land as a slave, God did not abandon him. It is often in the darkest circumstances, that God feels the closest to us.

1. Who else in Scripture can you recall God being "with them"? Judges 2:18 is an example.

2. What may have been Joseph's thoughts and feeling at this point? As a friend how would you have ministered to him, what Scripture would you have shared?

The most important thing to note here is that **"The Lord was with Joseph."** He could have reacted to this situation with a bitter heart. Why should he help this pagan slave owner become successful in running his household? But instead, he chose to take hold of the opportunity to represent God by doing his best. He became a servant and a very good one.

Do you think he remembered the dreams he had when he was living with his brothers? Did he have hope that things would change?

Potiphar recognized that the Lord was with Joseph. The same thing happened to Abraham with Abimelech in Genesis 21:22.

Although Potiphar did not worship the True God, his house was blessed because of Joseph's faithfulness in service. He was able to trust him with all his possessions.

“While it is true that godly men must suffer persecution sooner or later, it is equally true that the life of simple godliness commands the respect and trust even of ungodly men.”

G. Campbell Morgan

Read Luke 16:10

3. God’s followers should always make the best employees. What does Colossians 3:23 tell us?

Do you practice this? Even in the little things? Sometimes it is easier to “work for the Lord” in the big things, but harder in the mundane day to day tasks. God will bless our obedience and a proper heart attitude. And, you can be sure that the World is watching what kind of servant you are. So, put your apron on.

4. What characteristics and gifts of the Spirit living inside you, can equip you to be your boss’s best employee?

Read Matthew 12:18 and Isaiah 42:1 Who is called a servant in these passages of Scripture?

Now Read Matthew 20:26, 28 from these verses who else is called to serve? _____

In pagan governments, people who promote themselves over others often get positions of leadership. However, in Jesus' kingdom, those who place themselves under others will get those positions. In pagan governments, individuals are great who have others serving them, but in Jesus' kingdom, those who serve others will be great. To make His point even clearer, Jesus used "servant" (Gr. diakonos) in verse 26, and then "slave" (Gr. doulos) in verse 27.

“Jesus presented Himself, "the Son of Man," as the supreme example of a slave to others. He would even lay down "His life" in the service of others, not just helping them, but dying in their place. As Messiah, Jesus had every right to expect service from others, but instead He served others.” Thomas Constable

At the end of verse 6, it says, *“Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.”*

5. How was his mother, Rachel, described in Genesis 29:17?

Who was described in 1Samuel 9:2 _____ in 1Samuel 17:42? _____

What does 1Samuel 16:7 tell us? _____

Outward appearances can sway man’s (and woman’s) opinion, but never God’s.

Read 2Samuel 14:25 and 2Samuel 15:1-12 about what kind of person “handsome” Absalom really was.

6. Jesus, is described prophetically, in Isaiah 53:2. How is He described?

7. Why might Jesus have been average looking, as opposed to very handsome? What might have happened if he was physically very appealing?

Although Joseph was physically good looking, his character was more important to the Lord, than his countenance.

Read Genesis 39:7-18

Joseph finds himself in a very difficult situation. He is a slave and should obey the orders of his master’s wife; but he is unwilling to sin. Proverbs 15:3

Sin against whom? _____ Psalm 51:4.

8. Read Proverbs 5:21 and Proverbs 9:10. What do you learn from these verses?

Is it possible that other household slaves had no problem submitting to Mrs. Potiphar’s requests?

We are to submit to earthly authority, yet remember Peter's words in Acts 4:19, *"But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, make your own judgment;'"* In the end, God's authority is higher than man's.

Read verse 10.

Potiphar's wife showed that her heart was fully set to do evil, she was a seductress and a liar. Joseph tried to keep boundaries regarding her. Read 2Timothy 2:22, 1Corinthians 6:18, 1Thessalonians 5:21,22.

9. Having protective boundaries is very important in the Christian walk. Do you have boundaries that you have when interacting with men? To protect, not only yourself, but also the reputation of the men? What are they?

Read Verses 19-23

Potiphar's anger burned. It's interesting that Scripture does not say that Potiphar's anger was kindled against Joseph. It may be possible that Potiphar knowing both his wife and Joseph too well and found it hard to believe his wife's claims. Read Proverbs 20:11, Matthew 12:33, and Proverbs 20:11.

He trusted Joseph with every aspect of his household and knew God was with him. He also knew the character of his wife. We do not know Potiphar's thoughts with certainty; but consider that he had the authority to put Joseph to death over the allegations, yet he chose to imprison him instead.

In either case, God had a plan in allowing Joseph to be sent to prison, the very place where the king's prisoners were confined.

This chapters ends the same way it began. "The LORD was with Joseph". He was viewed favorably by the warden and was given responsibilities. All he did prospered because of his faithful commitment to following God.

This chapter reveals that dedication to God's calling enables His servants to resist temptation.

There is no indication that Joseph made any effort to defend himself, he was being punished unjustly, he still kept quiet. Read Isaiah 53:7 and 1 Peter 2:19-23. Who else kept silent? _____

10. What impresses you most about Joseph in this chapter?
