SUNDAY TO SUNDAY

Questions to help us consider Sunday's passage all week long

The Persistent Presence of the Lord

November 8, 2026 | Genesis 39

MESSAGE AT A GLANCE

Joseph's Enslavement (vv. 1–6)	The LORD was with Joseph and blessed his work, even while he remained a slave.
Joseph's Harassment (vv. 7–18)	The LORD was with Joseph as he resisted temptation and was falsely accused.
Joseph's Imprisonment (vv. 19–23)	The LORD remained with Joseph and showed him mercy in unjust suffering.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Joseph suffered betrayal, slavery, persistent temptation, false accusation, and imprisonment. Yet the LORD was with him in Potiphar's house and in prison. God blessed Joseph's work, enabled him to remain faithful when tempted, and showed him mercy in unjust suffering. Joseph did not yet know how God would use his suffering, but God had not abandoned him. In Christ, believers can trust the Lord's persistent presence even when His purposes are hidden.

Key Points: (1) Joseph's blessings did not exempt him from suffering (vv. 1–6). (2) Joseph's faithfulness to God led to greater suffering (vv. 7–20). (3) Joseph's suffering was not evidence of God's abandonment (vv. 21–23).

CONSIDER THIS WEEK

1. Joseph prospered while still enslaved. How does Genesis 39:2–6 challenge the idea that God's blessing always means comfort or ease? Where are you tempted to take credit for what God has given?

2. Joseph refused temptation even when he had reasons to excuse himself. What excuses do you tend to make for sin when life is difficult? What would it look like to flee temptation this week?

3. Potiphar's wife retaliated when Joseph refused her. When someone disappoints, rejects, or offends you, is your response marked by grace or harshness? What would a distinctly Christian response look like? (Genesis 39:13–20; Ephesians 4:31–32)

4. Joseph did what was right and suffered for it. Have you ever assumed that hardship means God has abandoned you? How does the repeated statement "the LORD was with Joseph" correct that thinking?

5. Joseph could not see what God would do tomorrow, but he could be faithful today. What unknown future are you anxious about? How can you trust the Lord and obey Him in the moment He has given you?