

## God's surprising plan to bless the world

**Genesis 39** – God is always with his people in good and bad circumstances. Real success is persevering in trusting and living for God in all circumstances.

When you see a little 'a' or 'b' after a verse number, it means 'the first bit of the verse' (a) or 'the second bit of the verses' (b). You'll often see an obvious split in the verse.

So reading Gen 39:1-6a means read from verse 1 to the end of the first sentence of verse 6. 6b means start reading from the second sentence of verse 6. In this case, it's even a new paragraph.

### On the up - Read Genesis 39:1-6a

1. How would you describe Joseph's situation?

Think about all aspects – e.g. he's still a slave but well liked.

2. What does God's presence lead to?

(v3) s \_\_\_\_\_ for Joseph in everything.

(v5) b \_\_\_\_\_ on the whole household.

### Find and read Gen 12:2-3 to remind yourself of God's promise.

How is God keeping his promise through Joseph at this point in the story?

### Injustice - Read Genesis 39:6b-20a

3. What three reasons does Joseph give for not sleeping with Potiphar's wife?

(v8) Potiphar \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph

(v9) She is Potiphar's \_\_\_\_\_. (Yes, this seems obvious!)

(v9) It would be a \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Use these words:

wife      trusts  
sin      God

4. Who *seems* to be 'successful' in this situation? Why?

### God is still with Joseph – Read Genesis 39: 20b-23

5. Who is actually better off ('successful') in the end (out of Joseph and Potiphar's wife)? Why?

6. How would you describe Joseph's trust in God? Why?

We can see that Joseph's trust in God was strong because he continued to trust and live for God even when faced with injustice, temptation and prison.

1. What do you learn about what life as God's people can be like? What do you learn about real 'success'?
2. Why might people during Jesus' life have thought Jesus' life was 'unsuccessful'? Was that really the case?
3. Think forward to 10 years' time. If you were 'successful' in the same way Joseph was successful, what do you think your relationship with God would be like? What would your faith in Jesus be like?

## Genesis 39

r y f m q f k e p f a t k n d  
b e u b a s a v j p q y p s e  
g o s v j n o e y b w o s f k  
p o o p g a l r s l t e w u c  
a u d c o o c y e i n x t w a  
r e o x j n j t p d j q r a t  
t w m g w t s h n o s i r p t  
j r t o d f a i z n m i f h a  
o c u p s r k n b w i f e b v  
s n r s y d x g s l s s i e j  
e r q u t g n i s s e l b r f  
p r j n j e e a s u c c e s s  
h h s l e n d h h d a g h f x  
m y i t t a r z e l n k x h u  
q r v w u q e m b a p b r h t

Egypt

favour

cloak

Potiphar

blessing

anger

Joseph

handsome

prison

God

wife

kindness

success

trusted

favour

everything

attacked

responsible