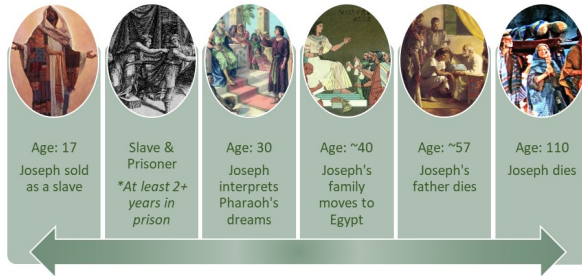


## Faith and Patience

One of Joseph’s remarkable features is his faith in God, whatever the circumstance. Through much of his young life, his goodness seemed to be rewarded with tragedy. When things started looking up, something worse happened. Joseph often spent *years* in difficult and trying situations. Not once, however, do we read of Joseph complaining or doubting. Instead, he relied on God, and always did what was right. What a lesson for us today!



## Questions

Try to find the answers to these questions as you read through Genesis 37-50 this week. If you have children, go over these questions with them and have them try to answer the questions also!

- 1) Which of Joseph’s brother’s planned to rescue him? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What was Potiphar’s position? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Which man was restored to his position—the cupbearer or the baker? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Pharaoh’s dreams meant there would be \_\_\_\_\_ years of abundance followed by \_\_\_\_\_ years of famine.
- 5) Which brother was held prisoner while the others returned with grain to their father? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Which part of Egypt did Jacob and his family settle in? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What were the names of Joseph’s two sons? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) “The scepter shall not depart from \_\_\_\_\_.” Why is this important?

**God’s Plan:** The book of Genesis begins with life in the paradise of Eden, but ends with death in Egypt. Thankfully, Genesis is only the beginning. As Genesis closes, God’s plan is moving right along. A nation is forming, just as foretold by God. From this nation will come a Savior, who, just as promised will bring blessing to every nation on earth! We may not always see how God is working, but we can always trust He is in control, and is working for His children.

**Forgiveness:** Joseph had every reason to hate his brothers, and it was within his power to punish and destroy them. When the opportunity presented itself, however, we don’t witness calculated revenge; we see tender forgiveness and joyful reunion. If Joseph could forgive his brothers for selling him into slavery, shouldn’t we be able to forgive others when they slight us?

*Mt. 6:14 “...if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”*

# “That You May Grow Thereby...” 4

*A weekly Bible reading plan*

## Genesis 37-50

### Joseph: Son, Slave, Savior

#### Overview

The narrative of Genesis takes an interesting turn in chapter 37. Since Abraham, the story has focused on the next “descendant of promise.” If this were to continue, we would expect the story to focus on Judah. Instead, the next individual that we learn about is Joseph. While Joseph isn’t a part of Christ’s lineage, he is an incredibly impressive individual! Consider this—more chapters are devoted to this man’s life than Abraham’s. Also, Joseph is the only

#### Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Gen. 37-38  
 Tuesday: Gen. 39-41  
 Wednesday: Gen. 42-44  
 Thursday: Gen. 45-47  
 Friday: Gen. 48-50

main character in Genesis of which nothing negative is recorded. While Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all have major faults recorded, nothing of the sort is written concerning Joseph. This man’s story is a roller coaster of favor followed by hardship. Beginning as the favorite son, he is soon sold into slavery. As a servant he prospers, until he is wrongfully accused and imprisoned. Finally Joseph climbs higher than he could have ever imagined, becoming the second in command of Egypt! While his life took many unexpected turns and involved many undeserved hardships, in the end we see God’s hand was always at work, preparing a way for His chosen people to be saved. Joseph’s story is a wonderful lesson of trusting in God and His redeeming plan!

#### Joseph and Jesus

*In many ways, Joseph serves as a “type” (a foreshadowing) of Jesus. Consider these parallels between them:*

Joseph	Parallel	Jesus
Gen. 37:3	Loved by their Father	Mt. 3:17
37:2	Shepherds of their fathers’ sheep	Jn. 10:11, 27
37:4	Despised by brothers	Jn. 7:5
37:25, 28	Taken to Egypt	Mt. 2:14-15
37:23	Robes taken from them	Jn. 19:23
39:16-18	Falsely Accused	Mt. 26:59-60
40:2-3	Placed with 2 prisoners; one was saved and one was lost	Lk. 23:32
41:46	30 Years old at beginning of public recognition	Lk. 3:23
41:41	Exalted after suffering	Php. 2:9-11
45:1-15	Forgave those that wronged them	Lk. 23:34
45:7	Saved their nation	Mt. 1:21