

Potiphar's Wife Tempts Joseph

1. Carefully read through Genesis 39. Highlight with different colors all of the words spoken by different people. Mark in yellow everywhere the name of God is used. Mark in green everywhere a place is named. Mark in blue everywhere a person is named. Circle, underline, or color any repeated phrases. What patterns do you notice?
2. Memorize Genesis 39:8-9, "But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?'"
3. Create your own detailed outline of Genesis 39.
4. What key words and themes appear in Genesis 37, 38, and 39? Some critics argue that these chapters were originally separate stories carelessly pieced together. Do you think this is accurate? Why or why not?

5. Who are the Ishmaelites? What relationship do they have with the Egyptians? Who is Potiphar? What relationship does he have with Pharaoh? Where else have we read about Egypt in Genesis?

6. How does Joseph's interaction with Potiphar's wife relate to the events of Genesis 3? What does this reveal about Joseph?

7. Who does Potiphar's wife blame for her actions? What role does a garment play in her deception? What role does laughter play in her deception?

8. What does God do for Joseph? Why do you think he does this?