

**In the Beginning | Virtual Bible Study Notes and Personal Study Guide**  
**Week 7 | God At Work in the Life of Joseph**  
*Key Text: Genesis 37 – 50*

### **Trials**

- Thrown in a pit and forgotten (Genesis 37)
- Thrown in jail and forgotten (Genesis 39-40)
- Thrown before Pharaoh and put on the spot (Genesis 41:14-16)

### **Faith in the face of trial and temptation**

- Response to Potiphar's wife: "How could I sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9)
- Response to the baker and the butcher in jail: "Do not interpretations belong to God?" (Genesis 40:8)
- Response to Pharaoh: "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires." (Genesis 41:16)
- Response to his brothers: "Am I in the place of God?" (Genesis 50:19)

### **Big Picture – God is at work through trials and faith**

- "You meant it for evil but God meant it for good – to save many lives" (Genesis 50:20)
- "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." (Genesis 50:25)

### **Study Questions:**

1. Remember that the Bible is one big story pointing to God's mission to fill the earth with His glory (specifically – with his "image" Gen. 1:28). Who is Joseph's dad? Who are Joseph's brothers? How does that context help us place Joseph's story in God's larger story?
2. How would you describe Joseph's life? How do most people respond to the kinds of things Joseph faced?
3. How did Joseph handle the temptation with Potiphar's wife? What mindset did he have?
4. How did Joseph end up in prison in Egypt? How do you think Joseph was tempted to feel at that point?
5. So then ... how does Joseph end up second in command in Egypt? (ch. 41) How do you think he felt then? What do you think Joseph believed about God?
6. Genesis 45:5-8 tells us *exactly* what Joseph believed about God! Why was it important that Jacob's family survive? Again, place this in God's larger story.
7. Genesis 50:20 is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. Is it hard for you to believe that sometimes? How does Gen. 50:20 point us to the climax of God's story, the fulfillment of all of God's promises?