



## Harvester Groups

### JOSEPH: *Staying Faithful in the Unexpected* | Group Questions for Genesis 39

**Prepare:** Read Genesis 39 several times before your group meeting. Write down any questions or observations you want to discuss.

#### Discuss\*

- What are the most pressing questions and observations that Genesis 39 brings up for you? What makes these questions and observations so significant to you?
- What are some of the themes that you see surface in Genesis 39? Which of these themes are continuations from Joseph's life in prior chapters? From what you know of the story to come, which of these themes will continue throughout the rest of Joseph's life?
  - How have you seen these same themes in your own life, and how might you see them continuing on in your life to come?
- How are the meaning of Joseph's name ("may he add" // see Genesis 30:22-24) and God's blessing given to Joseph's forefathers (Abraham [Gen. 12:1-3] / Isaac [26:1-5] / Jacob [28:13-15]) manifest in the story of Joseph?
  - Do you believe that we carry the same blessing as God's people today – to be a blessing to the world around us? If not, why not? If so, how do you see that playing out in your (and your family's) life currently?
- Potiphar, Joseph's master, "saw that the LORD was with him." From what you know of Joseph and his story, what do you think Potiphar saw as the visible evidence "that the LORD was with [Joseph]"?
  - Who have you encountered that you could "see that the LORD was with them"? What led to you seeing this about them?
  - In what ways might the people around you "see that the LORD is with you"? What thoughts and feelings does this raise up in you?
- How would you describe the rationale that Joseph gives for refusing the advances of Potiphar's wife (39:8-9)? What positive and negative motivations may lie behind Joseph standing against this temptation?
- Who do you think this story is about primarily? Observe all of the actions being done and who they are done by (esp. 39:1-6, 20-23). What might this suggest about who this story is truly about, and what we are to take away from it?

#### Apply

Take some time to reflect on the temptations that are strongest and most persistent for you in your life now.

- What are the consequences of both giving in to those temptations AND resisting them?
- How might God be using your temptations to further his story (understanding that, like Joseph, we are in the middle of the story and cannot see the end)?
- Read these verses through the lens of the temptations that you are facing: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:26-31; 2 Corinthians 1:3-10. How, if at all, do these passages speak to your situation?

*\*Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*