

Community Bible Church

The Book of Genesis

Chapter 39

You may remember the outline of the **book of Genesis**. **Chapters 1-11** cover **Four Great Events** (Creation, Fall, Flood and Nations) while **Chapters 12-50** describe **Four Great Characters** (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph). The **Life of Joseph** is covered in **chapters 37-50** and we are currently studying **chapter 39**, which deals with **Joseph's success**, as well as **his imprisonment** in Egypt. One could say that **chapter 39** describes the ups and downs of Joseph's life. The title of this chapter could be that Joseph goes "**From The Supervisor to The Slammer.**" An outline of **chapter 39** is as follows:

Joseph The Faithful Service	39:1-6
Joseph The Model of Self Control	39:7-18
Joseph The Respected Prisoner	39:19-23

There are a number of wonderful verses describing Joseph in this chapter but the same theme occurs in the following four verses:

"The Lord was with Joseph." 39:2, 3, 21, 23

One commentator describes the early life of Joseph with this brief, witty sentence:

"Joseph, rejected by kin, resists sin, lands in the pen, and helps the king's men."

Typology is the study of events or persons in the Old Testament that seem to prefigure the character and actions of Jesus Christ. Many would see Joseph as a "type" of Christ, with regard to his background and his godly character and behavior during his life. A number of authors list over two dozen characteristics, or similarities, of Joseph's life to that of Jesus. While we won't study these in detail, it is helpful to be aware of this comparison.

In this chapter, we will study Joseph's faithful service, honesty, patience, perseverance, morality, being conscientious, strength in resisting temptation, and his response to difficult circumstances. These qualities can serve as memorable examples for us in developing maturity and godly character in our lives today. And they are important biblical principles to also teach to our children.

1. Read **39:1-4** and describe what most interested you about Joseph, this Hebrew slave who had been exported to a foreign country against his will.
2. What happens as a result of Joseph's faithful service in **39:5-6**?

3. Read **39:6-13** and describe at least three ways that were used by Joseph to resist temptation. What might be other types of temptation you face and what principles are found here that could apply?

4. What does Potiphar's wife do in **39:14-16**? What did she tell her husband in **39:17-18**? What did he do in **39:19-20**?

5. How does the author of Genesis describe both God and Joseph in this beautiful verse in **39:21**?

6. How does this chapter conclude in **39:22-23**?

7. From **chapter 39**, list those qualities and behaviors in the life of Joseph that you would like to emulate in your life today.

8. What most caught your attention about the interaction between Joseph and God throughout this chapter?

9. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and author during World War II wrote: "***Within our members is a slumbering giant of desire, a smoldering fire of either lust, revenge, greed, anger, or ambition. We forget God. Lust envelopes our minds. Our powers of clear discrimination and decision are taken from us.***" From this chapter, what ways does the believer have to push back and overcome these strong desires?

