

## **Bible Summary -Genesis 39 & 40**

### Progress in the Pit

Joseph's life has spiraled down into a prison pit. He has been treated unfairly by his brothers and by a false accusation of rape. Joseph will emerge from this pit to become the president of Egypt and lead the entire region out of a seven-year famine. Joseph gives us wisdom in how to navigate our own pits of unfair accusations, hard circumstances, depression, health or whatever we encounter on this life's journey. Joseph first, focused on others not his problems. He helps two fellow prisoners and it was this help that plants the seeds for his future success. Next, he never compromised his character. He didn't make his pit deeper by sinful actions. Third, he left his coat behind. Mrs. Potiphar attempted to seduce him by pulling him to bed with his coat. Joseph wisely let her have his coat and ran out of the room. There can be people or places that draw us into a pit of sin but like Joseph we need to leave those things behind. Lastly, Joseph worked with what he had. Scripture never records Joseph complaining. He realized there was much he couldn't control. What he could control was his perspective and work ethic. It was this perspective that repeatedly elevated Joseph above the others. As believers, we must realize this life is a pit stop and not put too much pressure on it. If we have the right view of earth, we are pilgrims journeying through, it will be magnificent but if we expect earth to be heaven we will trash this life.

Scriptures: Genesis 39-40; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5; John 13:17; Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 1; Colossians 3:2; John 14:1-2; Revelation 21-22

## **Bible Questions and Application**

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Have you ever done what was right and then had it backfire on you?
2. Describe a hard season in your life when you were falsely accused or misunderstood?
  - a. Describe a time when you were deeply or wonderfully comforted in a difficult situation?
3. Why is it so hard to remember that earth is merely a pit stop or rest area and not our final destination?
4. Like Joseph's troublesome coat, is there a someone or something you need to let go that is pulling you down?
5. Joseph didn't seem to grow weary in well doing. How do we keep from growing weary in well doing? (Galatians 6:9)
6. Share about a time that your experience with pain opened your eyes to the pain of others and allowed you to help them through it?