



# 19-Minute Bible Study

## Genesis 37

### VERY IMPORTANT CHAPTERS

Genesis 1	Creation
Genesis 2	Marriage
Genesis 3	Fall into Sin
Genesis 4	Cain and Abel
Genesis 6-9	The Flood (2)
Genesis 11	Tower of Babel
Genesis 12	Abraham
Genesis 19	Sodom and Gomorrah
Genesis 22	Abraham Tested
Genesis 28	Jacob's Ladder
<b>Genesis 37</b>	<b>Joseph's Coat of Many Colors</b>
Genesis 41	Joseph Rules
Exodus 2	The Baby Moses
Exodus 3,4	The Burning Bush
Exodus 12	The Passover
Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Joshua 6	Jericho's Walls Come Tumbling Down
1 Sam. 17	David and Goliath
2 Sam. 11,12	David and Bathsheba (2)
1 Kings 3	Solomon's Wisdom
2 Kings 2	Chariots of Fire
Psalms 23	The "Good Shepherd" Psalm
Psalms 121	The "Hills" Psalm
Isaiah 53	Christ Our Substitute
Matthew 5-7	The Sermon on the Mount (2)
Matthew 18	Church Discipline
Luke 2	Christmas
Luke 10	The Good Samaritan
Luke 15	The "Lost" Chapter
Luke 19	Palm Sunday
Luke 22,23	Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday (2)
Luke 24	Easter
John 2	Jesus' First Miracle
John 17	Christ's High-Priestly Prayer
Acts 1	Ascension
Acts 2	Pentecost
Acts 9	Saul's Conversion
Acts 16	Paul in Philippi
Romans 3	Righteous through Faith
Romans 8	More than Conquerors
Romans 13	Government
1 Corin. 13	"Agape Love"
1 Corin. 15	Chapter Paul's Great "Resurrection"
Ephesians 5	Chapter Marriage
2 Thess. 2	The Antichrist
Hebrews 11	Heroes of Faith
2 Peter 3	Christ's Second Coming
Rev. 21	Heaven

<sup>1</sup>Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup>This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. <sup>3</sup>Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. <sup>4</sup>When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. <sup>5</sup>Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup>We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." <sup>8</sup>His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. <sup>9</sup>Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." <sup>10</sup>When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" <sup>11</sup>His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind. <sup>12</sup>Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup>and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied. <sup>14</sup>So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, <sup>15</sup>a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" <sup>16</sup>He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" <sup>17</sup>"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup>But they saw him in

the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. <sup>19</sup>"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. <sup>20</sup>"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." <sup>21</sup>When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup>"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. <sup>23</sup>So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing—<sup>24</sup>and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup>As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup>Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup>Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup>So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. <sup>29</sup>When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. <sup>30</sup>He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" <sup>31</sup>Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in blood. <sup>32</sup>They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." <sup>33</sup>He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. <sup>35</sup>All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him. <sup>36</sup>Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

1. Describe Joseph's character.

2. What did the dreams Joseph received from God say about Joseph's future?

Why do you think God sent these dreams to Joseph at this time?

3. What responsibility must Jacob bear for the brothers' ill feelings toward Joseph?

What responsibility must Joseph himself bear?

4. Compare the sufferings of Joseph to those of Jesus.

5. What bits of advice might you have shared with Jacob's family that would also help the relationships in your family?

## Helps

(1) Joseph, although young, was a man of considerable talents and abilities as well as moral character.

(2) The dreams God sent to Joseph revealed that Joseph would someday enjoy a position of leadership. God undoubtedly revealed these things so that they would serve as an encouragement to Joseph during the difficult times that lay ahead.

(3) Jacob had no right to love and show favor to Joseph more than to his other sons. This, as well as presenting Joseph with the special gift of the robe, may have been partly responsible for the ill feelings of the brothers. Joseph too may have been partly responsible. In his youthful immaturity, he seems to display arrogance and insensitivity, sharing his dreams with his brothers not once but twice.

(4) Both were beloved sons whose fathers made it clear that they loved them. Both were envied, despised, and hated by those closest to them. Both suffered unjustly and were sold as slaves for a slave's price.

(5) Possible answers:

We should stress love and forgiveness, modeled after the love and forgiveness of God. We should address such things as favoritism by a parent and its effect on a family; the sins of hatred, jealousy, envy, arrogance, and pride; and properly raising a gifted child.

## Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Satan wants to destroy one of your greatest gifts to us, our families. Lead us, by your power, to forgive and love and to protect our families, that they may be for us the rich blessing you intend. In our Savior's name. Amen.