

Discussion Questions – Genesis 37-39

1. What was it that caused the jealous nature of Joseph's brothers? Having studied the previous chapters this year, how were their actions a consistent result of family traits and family upbringing? What lessons are there for fathers today in Jacob's treatment of Joseph and his brothers?
2. A case might be made that Joseph should have kept his dreams to himself so as not to antagonize his brothers. On the other hand, he recognized it as a dream from God, and the proclamation of God's word always produces animosity. Should Joseph have kept God's revelation to himself for the sake of peace and humility, or did he do well to declare it to his family? What does your answer say to you personally?
3. Compare Genesis 37:18-20 to James 1:15. How could the brothers have stopped their desire before it led to sin? Later in Genesis 37:26, Judah presents an alternative to killing Joseph that seems to benefit everybody (the brothers make money and Joseph gets to live), but was really selfishness and deceit. Sin always presents itself as a sweet alternative, but inevitably leads to regret (Job 12:12-17), why, then, do we fall for its lies? How do we, like Judah, justify sin in our own lives?

