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?

	Genesis 38 seems like an unusual pericope to include in this narrative. Since it does not play a major role in Joseph's life, why do you think God chose to include it in Scripture. (See Mat 1:1-3). What is its importance in God's Big Picture?
	Before every flight cabin attendants make sure escape routes are well marked and well known, so that in the panic of an emergency evading disaster is possible. Joseph was incredibly faithful to avoid sexual sin in Genesis 39. Read I Corinthians 10:13 and compare the two passages. In what areas of your own life can you better mark your escape routes? While it is best to avoid circumstances where temptation is inevitable, we cannot always avoid every temptation. Being prepared beforehand is extremely valuable. How can we give ourselves a "pre-flight safety briefing" so we are ready to make use of the way out promised by God in I Corinthians 10?
	Joseph must have asked God why he was languishing in prison for the crime of obedience. Have you ever suffered for doing good? Did you ever doubt God's goodness during that time? How did He build greater trust or righteousness through your suffering? I Peter 2:19-24 encourages us to endure hardships brought on by obedience the same way Jesus did. In what other ways does Joseph provide us with a glimpse of Jesus?