

Genesis: God and the Originals

JOSEPH AND POTIPHAR'S WIFE

Joseph is Taken Down to Egypt (39:1)

1. Some time has passed (since Genesis 37). How old do you think (remember?) Joseph is at this time?
2. How is Potiphar described (what is his role)?

Joseph in Potiphar's Service (39:2-6a)

3. Whose experience does Joseph's parallel (earlier in Genesis)?
4. Describe Joseph's movement "up the ladder" in increasing responsibility (v. 3-6a)?
5. Yahweh is "_____" Joseph; it is something Potiphar can see. "Everything. . . everything. . . everything. . ." This is the first and only time in Genesis that Yahweh blesses people outside Abraham's family.

BONUS: Joseph becomes personal assistant to Potiphar. "Attend on" (*sarat*) will describe _____ position to Moses (Ex. 24:13) and _____ in relation to Elijah (1 Kings 19:21).

Things Start to Go Wrong for Joseph (39:6b-10)

6. Potiphar's wife takes notice (Joseph must have gotten his mother's looks). How do Potiphar's wife and Tamar provide two models of the feminine?

7. Joseph was even more handsome in “_____”.

A Day Comes When the Coast is Clear for Potiphar’s Wife (39:11-15)

8. Joseph’s flight not only “_____” but also “_____” his mistress.?

9. This is the “_____” time one of Joseph’s cloaks deceives others. When was the first?

Potiphar’s Wife Tells her Husband a Third Version of the Story (39:16-20a)

10. Compare and contrast at your tables between various translations between where Joseph’s cloak ends up (v. 13 (the narrator’s account) vs. (hers) v. 15, and v. 18)?

11. How does Potiphar’s wife describe Joseph (and his behavior) to Potiphar?

BONUS: What is unusual about Joseph’s punishment?