

**WEEK 6: GOD AT WORK BRINGING BLESSING TO THE WORLD**  
**DAY 1: GOD PLANNED FOR JACOB'S FAMILY TO BRING BLESSING**  
**Genesis 36:9-43; 37:1-2**

1. At the beginning of this new week we greet you in the name of our Saviour. May the Lord Jesus make you strong. This week we will see how God was at work again. He was bringing blessing to the world.

Esau cut himself off from the blessing of God. Write two bad choices of Esau which we read about in Genesis 36.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Esau chose wives who did not worship God. Esau chose to leave Canaan. These are two things we are told about in Genesis 36. But there is more in this chapter.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 36:9-14. What are we told about in these verses?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. We are told about the descendants of Esau. The rest of chapter 36 is the names of the kings of the Edomites. They were the family and descendants of Esau. We read of Esau and his family in just this one chapter. We do not learn anything more about them in the book of Genesis. But we learn much about Isaac's other son. The rest of the book of Genesis is about Jacob and his family.

Who were the twin sons of Isaac? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Esau and Jacob were both sons of Isaac. But today we will learn:

- (1) It was Jacob and his family who were important in God's plan.
- (2) God wanted to bring blessing to the world through this family.

I thank God for my family. The family is an important matter in a man's life.

Is your family important to you? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Our families are important. God cares about families. God created the first family. This was Adam and Eve. He gave them children.

Who planned for us to live in families? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Families are important to God. He planned for us to live in families. Genesis is a book about families. Earlier in our study, you learned about the family of Abraham. Then you learned of Isaac and Rebekah and their twin sons

Genesis 37:1-2:

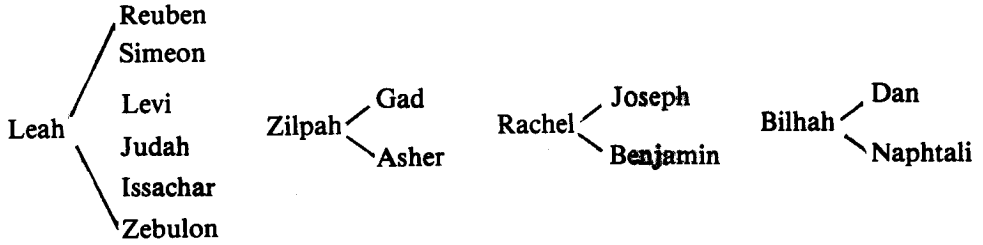
Jacob dwelt in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. This is the history of the family of Jacob.

The Bible starts in this chapter to give us the history of whose family? \_\_\_\_\_

7. For the next five weeks we will study the family of Jacob. You will learn things to help you in your family.

Think about the people in Jacob's family. He had two wives, Leah and Rachel. He also had two more wives. He had Leah's servant, Zilpah, and Rachel's servant, Bilhah. Zilpah and Bilhah also bore children to Jacob.

Here are the names of Jacob's sons, and their mothers.



God spoke to Jacob at Bethel. He learned that his family would be important in God's plan. Jacob's family would bring blessing to all the world.

As well as to the world, to whom was Jacob's family important? \_\_\_\_\_

---

8. Jacob's family was important to God. They were in God's plan. In just one chapter we read about Esau and his family. This is Genesis 36. Esau and his family moved away from Jacob. That is all we are told. The rest of the chapter is just names of Esau's descendants. But we will study 14 chapters telling about Jacob's family.

Do we read much about Esau's family? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose family was important in God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

---

9. God tells us little about Esau's family. But Jacob's family was important in God's plan. Man sinned and became an enemy of God. But God did not just leave man. God had a plan to bring blessing to the world. That is why we learn much about this family. You will see how God worked out His plan through Jacob's family. While Jacob was alive, he saw his family bring great blessing to the world. But God's full plan took many years to work out. It would bring the Lord Jesus.

Was God leaving the world to find its own way, or did He have a plan? \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. God was planning to bring blessing to the world. This is why we have the story of the family of Jacob. God has given us little news of the family of Esau. But we will learn much about Jacob's family.

Among the sons of Isaac, whose family was important in God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

---

11. It was the family of Jacob. Read again part of God's promise to Jacob at Bethel. God had made this same promise to Abraham and Isaac.

Genesis 28:14:

By you and your descendants (or children) shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

From this verse, what did God want to bring through Jacob and his descendants?

---

12. God wanted to bring blessing through Jacob's family. To bring blessing is to bring God's good things to others. Read the promise once more.

Genesis 28:14:

By you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

To whom would Jacob's family bring blessing? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. Jacob's family would bring blessing to all the families of the earth. This is a wonderful thing for a family to do. This is why God tells us so much about this family. It was important in God's plan. Jacob's family would be a blessing not just to his own tribe. But his family would bring blessing to all the world.

Why does God give us the story of the family of Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. God was planning in love. Jacob's family was important in God's plan. The Lord's plan is always to bring blessing to His people. This is still His plan for Christians today. God wants to bless you and your family. This is what the writer of Proverbs said.

Proverbs 10:22:

The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

What makes the Lord's people rich? \_\_\_\_\_

---

15. We are made rich by the blessing of the Lord. God wants to bless us. But God wants us to be like Jacob. He wants us to choose the Lord as our God. He wants our families to be like Jacob's family. We can bring blessing.

Maybe you cannot bring blessing to all the earth as Jacob's family did. But God can use you and your family to bring blessing

- to your village
- to your church
- to your friends
- to those who do not know the Lord Jesus.

What does God want you and your family to bring to others? \_\_\_\_\_

---

16. Through you God wants to pass on blessing to others.

Think about ways in which you and your family can bring blessing to others. Try to write two ways.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

---

17. Be ready to share your answers in class.

Between the sons of Isaac, whose family was important in God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God want to bring to the world through this family? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 6: GOD AT WORK BRINGING BLESSING TO THE WORLD**  
**DAY 2: JACOB'S LOVE FOR JOSEPH BROUGHT SIN**  
**Genesis 37:2-11**

1. Between the sons of Isaac, whose family was important in God's plan?

\_\_\_\_\_

What did God want to bring to the world through this family? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The family of Jacob was important in God's plan. God's plan was to bring blessing to the world through Jacob's family. God gave Jacob 12 sons. Today we will learn about the terrible mistake Jacob made with his 12 sons.

- (1) He loved Joseph more than the others.
- (2) This brought hatred and jealousy in Joseph's brothers' lives.
- (3) It put pride into Joseph's life.

Read about this now in Genesis 37:1 to 11. Keep your Bible open beside you. You will need to read many verses during this lesson.

3. What a joy it is when a new baby is born! One of God's best gifts to a family is a new child. Each child is a precious gift to us.

Who has given the children in your family? \_\_\_\_\_

4. We welcome each child as a gift from God. God gave Jacob 12 sons. We will see how Jacob loved his sons.

Read Genesis 37:2 and 3 again. Which son did Jacob love most? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jacob made a terrible mistake in the way he loved his family. He loved Joseph more than his other 11 sons. Jacob's parents had made the same mistake. This had brought trouble between Jacob and his brother Esau. But Jacob had not learnt from his parents' mistake.

Did Jacob hide the fact that he loved Joseph most? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Jacob did not hide his special love for Joseph. The brothers knew their father did not love them as much as he loved Joseph.

Do you remember when you were at school? The whole class knew when the teacher loved one student more than the rest. That student was given more of the teacher's time and praise. Jacob did the same kind of thing in his home. He gave Joseph a long robe or coat with sleeves.

Do we read that Joseph's brothers got special robes? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Jacob gave only Joseph a long robe with sleeves. At that time such a robe was often worn by kings' sons. A long robe was not worn by someone who did hard work. It was usually worn by the first-born son. Joseph was son number eleven. Day after day Joseph's brothers saw him in his beautiful robe.

When Joseph's brothers saw him in his robe what did they remember about their father's love?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. They remembered that their father loved Joseph more than them. Joseph's robe kept reminding them of this.

Think about the families in your village. Do you think a father sometimes finds it easier to love one child more than the others?  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Some people do find it easier to love one child more.

Write one reason why this is so. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. This may be because that child always obeys. Maybe the child works hard at home or at school. Maybe he is the only son in a family of girls.

Jacob had a reason for loving Joseph more. When a man has more than one wife it brings trouble. Joseph was the first child of Rachel, the wife whom Jacob loved. Rachel waited many years before Joseph was born. So Jacob had a reason for loving Joseph more than his 11 sons. But it brought two great problems into the lives of these other sons.

Read Genesis 37:4 to find the first thing. What did Joseph's brothers feel towards him?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Jealousy

11. They felt hatred toward him. They hated him because of their father's special love. They were jealous of Joseph's robe. They were jealous of his special place in the family. Jealousy is not wanting someone to have what you cannot have. Every child needs to be loved by his parents. Often great troubles come into children's lives when they are not loved.

Read Genesis 37:11 to find the second thing about Joseph's brothers. What did Joseph's brothers feel towards him?

(1) Hatred (2) \_\_\_\_\_

12. This was not a happy home. Hatred and jealousy bring trouble. They bring sorrow. You know what happens when a child is jealous of his brother. The two children often quarrel and fight.

Read Genesis 37:4 again. Was there peace between all of Jacob's sons, or was there hatred and jealousy?  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. There were angry words between Jacob's sons. There was hatred and jealousy. There was no peace in that home. All this came from Jacob's terrible mistake.

What terrible mistake did Jacob make in taking care of his sons? \_\_\_\_\_

14. He loved one son more than the others. He only thought of his own feelings. He forgot how much the other sons needed their father's love.

What did this bring to the lives of Joseph's brothers?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Jacob's other sons had hatred and jealousy for Joseph. Now we will see Joseph's life. Being the son who is loved much also brings problems.

When you read the verses you saw the way Joseph spoke to his brothers. Joseph was only 17 years old. His brothers were much older. He said, "Hear this dream I have dreamed." He was proud about his dreams. He was proud about the meaning of the dreams. Pride is a sin. Joseph's pride and the way he talked made his brothers hate him even more.

What sin do you see in Joseph's life? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Joseph had pride. He knew his brothers hated him more than when he told them his first dream. Joseph had a second dream like the first. These dreams were from God. They showed what God was going to do. But Joseph was proud and not very wise.

Genesis 37:9:

Then he dreamed another dream; and told it to his brothers, and said, "Behold I have dreamed another dream, and behold the sun, moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

What do you think? Did Joseph receive these dreams from God with humility or with pride? \_\_\_\_\_

17. We see pride in Joseph's life in the way he talked with his father and brothers. Now Joseph's brothers hated him even more. They saw the meaning in Joseph's two dreams. One day they all would bow down to him. Even his father would bow down. One day he would rule over them as their master. By his dreams, Joseph seemed to say that he was more important than his father and brothers.

Who was proud in the way he talked about his dreams? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Joseph was proud in the way he talked about his dreams. In the two dreams, the sheaves, stars, and sun bowed down to Joseph. These dreams came true 21 years later. But Joseph did not receive the dreams from God with humility. Being loved more than his brothers did not bring blessing to Joseph.

What did this put into Joseph's life? \_\_\_\_\_

19. What a terrible mistake Jacob made! Loving Joseph more than the others brought pride to Joseph's life. Some church leaders make the same mistake as Jacob. They love some of the Christians in the church more than others. This brings trouble.

Think about these questions but do not write answers. Be ready to talk about them in class. Is it a mistake to love our children? When does our love bring problems into their lives? How can church leaders show the right kind of love to all the Christians whom they lead?

=====

20. Jacob did not make a mistake in loving Joseph. God wants us to love our children. But Jacob made a mistake.

What terrible mistake did Jacob make in taking care of his sons? \_\_\_\_\_

What sins did this bring to the lives of Joseph's brothers?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

What sin did it put into Joseph's life? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 6: GOD AT WORK BRINGING BLESSING TO THE WORLD**  
**DAY 3: HATRED AND JEALOUSY LED TO SLAVERY AND DECEIT**  
**Genesis 37:12-36**

1. What terrible mistake did Jacob make in taking care of his sons?

---

What did this bring to the lives of Joseph's brothers?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

What did it put into Joseph's life? \_\_\_\_\_

---

2. Jacob made the mistake of loving one son more than the others. This brought hatred and jealousy to the lives of Joseph's brothers. It brought pride to Joseph's life. Today we will learn what the sin of Joseph's brothers led them to do.

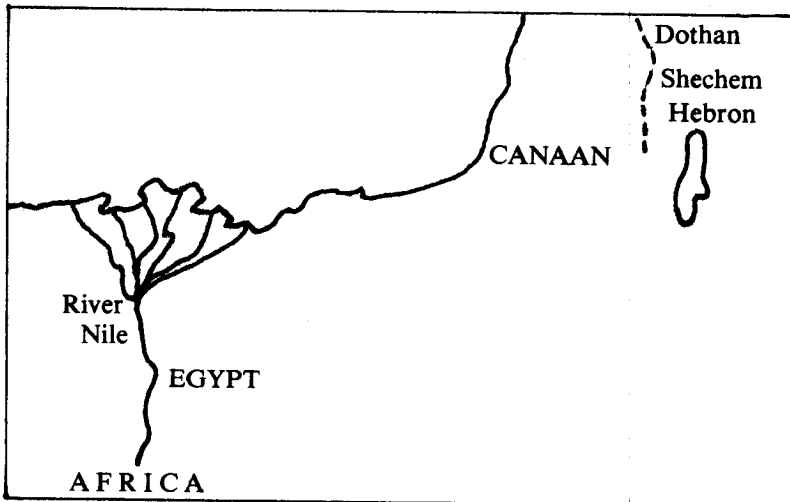
- (1) Because of their hatred and jealousy, Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave.  
(2) Then they deceived their father.

Whose family are we studying? \_\_\_\_\_

---

3. We are learning much from the story of Jacob's family. Jacob had a large flock of sheep and goats. Joseph's brothers left their home in Hebron to find grass for the sheep.

On the map draw a line under the word Hebron. This is the place in Canaan where Jacob and his family lived.



4. The brothers passed through Shechem and went up to Dothan. One day Jacob sent his much-loved son Joseph to see his brothers. Jacob wanted to hear how his sons were. He also wanted to know about the flocks. It was a two-day journey by foot.

On the map fill in the dotted line that shows Joseph's journey from Hebron to Dothan.

Who sent Joseph to see how his brothers were? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Joseph did as his father Jacob told him to do. He looked for his brothers until he found them. The brothers saw Joseph coming. He was wearing the long robe with sleeves given him by his father. This is what the brothers said.

Genesis 37:19-20:

Here comes the dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild beast has devoured (or eaten) him.

Who planned to kill Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

6. The hatred and jealousy of the brothers grew. They now planned to kill Joseph and to deceive their father. This is the way sin grows. But Reuben, the eldest, said not to kill Joseph. It was better to put him into a hole in the ground. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they took off his long robe. Then they put him down into a deep dark pit. Joseph cried and cried for help. But his brothers would not listen.

Why were Joseph's brothers so cruel to him? \_\_\_\_\_

7. These men were filled with hatred and jealousy. But Joseph was a long way from his father's love and help. They put him into a pit. Then they sat down to eat. They talked together of what they would do to Joseph.

If they killed Joseph what would they get? Nothing.

If they sold Joseph what would they get? Money.

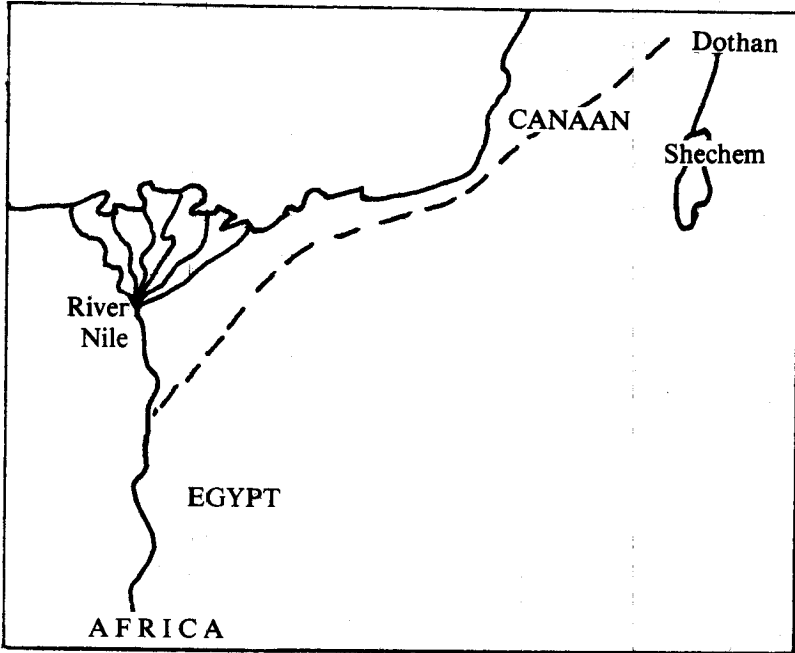
Now read carefully Genesis 37:25-28. Keep your Bible open. What did the brothers decide to do to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

8. They decided to sell him. Men sell a farm or a cow or a bag of maize. But these men took their own brother and sold him as a slave. Joseph would belong to another man as a donkey belongs to its owner. Jacob's sons sold Joseph as a slave to some Ishmaelites. These people were going to Egypt.

After the brothers sold Joseph, what was he? \_\_\_\_\_

9. So Joseph was sold as a slave for 20 pieces of silver. That was the common price for a slave. Joseph began the long journey to Egypt. Here he was sold to a man called Potiphar. Joseph became Potiphar's slave.

On the map fill in the dotted line. You will follow Joseph's journey from Dothan to Egypt.



10. Egypt was very different from Joseph's country. The Egyptians did not know God or worship Him as Joseph did. So Joseph had no fellowship. The Egyptians had a different language. The food was different. The customs were different. Joseph was far from his home. He was a stranger in Egypt. But the bitter thing to Joseph was that he was a slave. He was far from his father's love.

Because of their hatred and jealousy, what did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph?

11. Hatred and jealousy lead men to do terrible things. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave.

How do you think Joseph felt in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Maybe you said Joseph was sad, or lonely, or unhappy. Joseph was only 17 years old. The brothers had got rid of the much-loved son and his dreams. Or so they thought. But God was in control of Joseph's life. And Joseph loved and trusted God.

What made Joseph's brothers sell him as a slave? \_\_\_\_\_

13. The brothers got money for Joseph. But what made them sell him was their hatred and jealousy. Then they had to work out what to tell their father. They decided to say they had found Joseph's robe covered with blood. They would say that a wild beast had eaten Joseph.

In your Bible read Genesis 37:29 to 36. Did the brothers plan to tell the truth about Joseph, or to deceive their father?

14. They did not tell the truth to Jacob. Because of their story their father was deceived. This is what he said.

Genesis 37:33:

A wild beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.

Whom did the brothers deceive? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Hatred and jealousy led them to do something we do not like to think about. They deceived their own father. He was an old man. Sin is like this. One sin often leads to another sin that is much worse. The brothers killed one of their father's goats. This was another sin. They put the blood on Joseph's robe.

By showing Jacob the robe with goat's blood on it, what did the brother do to him?

16. Their plan worked. They deceived their father. Jacob mourned for his son Joseph for many days. Jacob had great sorrow.

Even while Jacob was mourning, what did the brothers know they had done to Joseph?

17. They knew Joseph had not been killed by a wild beast. They knew they had sold him as a slave. But Jacob mourned because he believed Joseph was dead. His sons tried to comfort him. They were so sinful in doing this. They brought great sorrow to their old father.

Because of their hatred and jealousy, what did Joseph's brothers do to their father?

8. They deceived him. Jacob did not know that his sons had deceived him. Think about what Joseph's brothers had done:

- (1) They sold Joseph as a slave.
- (2) They deceived their father.

What led Joseph's brothers to do these things?

---

19. Great trouble and sorrow came to Jacob and Joseph. This came because of hatred and jealousy.

Stop now and think about your own life. Even a little hatred or a little jealousy is very dangerous. What can you do if you find some in your heart?

---

20. Because of their hatred and jealousy, what did Joseph's brothers do to him?

---

What did they do to their father? \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 6: GOD AT WORK BRINGING BLESSING TO THE WORLD**  
**DAY 4: ADULTERY AND HYPOCRISY IN JUDAH'S LIFE**  
**Genesis 38:1-30**

1. Because of their hatred and jealousy, what did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph?

\_\_\_\_\_

What did they do to their father? \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. They deceived their father.

We will leave the story of Joseph just for today. We will study chapter 38 This chapter tells about Judah and his family. Judah was one of Joseph's brothers. Today we will learn about two sins in Judah's life.

In the things he did to his daughter-in-law, Tamar, Judah was guilty of:

- (1) Adultery
- (2) Hypocrisy

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 38:1 and 2. Whose family is talked about in this chapter?

=====

3. This chapter is about Judah's family. Judah had a big problem. He was afraid he would not have an heir. An heir is a son or grandson to carry on his father's family. Judah had sons but he did not have any grandsons.

Here in Africa most families want an heir. They want a son to carry on the father's family. They want a son to receive the father's possessions. It was the same in Judah's time.

Among your people is it important for a man to have an heir? \_\_\_\_\_

=====

4. In most places families want an heir very much.

Judah married a woman of Canaan. Remember that the people of Canaan were very sinful. Judah and his wife had three sons. The eldest son married a girl called Tamar. He and Tamar had no children. God killed this son of Judah because he was so sinful. Then Judah's second son married Tamar. They had no children. God killed this son also.

Whose two sons were killed by God because they were sinful? \_\_\_\_\_

=====

5. Two evil sons of Judah were killed by God. Judah blamed Tamar. He thought she brought this trouble. He did not blame his own sinful sons. Judah now had only one son left. His name was Shelah. Judah promised Tamar that Shelah would marry her. But Judah was afraid Shelah would die also.

In those times it was right for Tamar to be married to Shelah and have children. Tamar waited and waited. Judah kept breaking his promise to Tamar. He sent her back to be with her father. There she lived as a widow. By breaking his promise, Judah prepared the way for greater sins.

Whom did Judah wrong by his broken promise? \_\_\_\_\_

=====

6. Judah wronged Tamar by not keeping his promise. So Tamar decided to get help using her own ways. The time of cutting the wool from the sheep was a special time. The people sometimes had feasts and playing. Tamar heard that Judah was going to Timnah to shear his sheep. So Tamar also went to Timnah.

Read Genesis 38:12 to 19 in your Bible. What did Tamar pretend to be? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Tamar pretended to be a harlot. A harlot is one who sells her body to men. Some men think that going in to a harlot is not adultery. But this is adultery just as much as sleeping with a neighbour's wife.

At the time of cutting the sheep's wool there were many harlots about. Meeting with harlots was part of the religion of the people of Canaan.

What sin does a man commit if he goes in to a harlot? \_\_\_\_\_

8. A man is guilty of adultery if he goes in to a harlot. Tamar deceived Judah. She took off her widow's clothes and dressed as a harlot. Judah did not know it was his own daughter-in-law. He thought she was one of the many harlots in town.

Read Genesis 38:15-18 again. Who went in to lie with Tamar? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Judah lay with his own daughter-in-law, Tamar. Tamar did not play the harlot for money. Judah promised to send her a little goat. To show that he would send it, Judah gave her his seal. This was a little carved picture which he wore on a string around his neck. He gave Tamar his stick also.

In the things he did with Tamar, what is the first sin Judah committed?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Hypocrisy

10. The first sin we see is adultery. This son of Jacob wanted to go in to a harlot. He went in to Tamar. Tamar agreed to lie with him.

Who committed the sin of adultery with Tamar? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Yes, Judah committed adultery. Both Judah and Tamar sinned against God in this way. In all sexual sin two people are guilty. The man and the woman have the same guilt.

Because of the adultery Tamar conceived a baby. She would have a baby to Judah. Someone told Judah that Tamar had played the harlot. He heard that she was having a baby because of this.

Stop and read Genesis 38:24 to 26. How did Judah say Tamar should be punished for being a harlot?

12. Judah said that Tamar should be burned. Adultery has always been a serious sin. God hates this sin. The Old Testament law said that both the man and the woman were guilty. Both had to die.

Judah and Tamar were both guilty of what sin? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Often people think it is only the woman who is guilty. But Judah and Tamar were both guilty of adultery. Judah was not only guilty of adultery. He was also guilty of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the sin of living a lie. Judah was a hypocrite in the way he talked about Tamar's sin. He had done the same thing himself. But Judah's sin had not yet been found out. So he was ready to punish Tamar with death.

This kind of thing happens all the time. Boys deceive girls. They give them gifts. The girls have babies. The boys go off and forget them. The girls get all the blame.

In the things he did with Tamar, what is the second sin Judah committed?

(1) Adultery (2) \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. As well as adultery, Judah was guilty of hypocrisy. Tamar was being brought out to be burned. She then sent Judah the things he had left with her -- his seal and his stick.

Sometimes in the church we are guilty of hypocrisy like Judah. We have one law for men and another for women in the matter of adultery.

In your church do you have this kind of hypocrisy? \_\_\_\_\_

---

15. Be ready to talk about this in class. When Judah saw the seal and the stick he knew that he had been caught. He agreed that he had not done right to Tamar. Judah knew he was the father of Tamar's baby. Judah's sin had been found out. Tamar was not burned. Judah changed his mind. Again we see Judah's hypocrisy. When Tamar gave birth, she had twins sons, Perez and Zerah.

Write two sins Judah committed in the things he did with Tamar.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

---

16. Judah committed the sins of adultery and hypocrisy.

We once knew a certain church leader with a wife and a family. The man became friends with a young girl. She became pregnant with his child. She was dismissed from her work. In church she was not allowed to take part in the Lord's supper. Although it was true, the church leader denied that he was the father of her baby. He went on helping to serve the Lord's Supper in church. Later this church leader went far away from God.

Like Judah, what two sins were in this church leader's life?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

---

17. In the church leader's life, we see adultery and hypocrisy. The story of Judah and Tamar is an ugly one. Maybe you are wondering why it is in God's Word. But God did not have perfect people to work with. An heir for Judah was an important matter. Judah was in the line from which Jesus would come. In the New Testament, Matthew gives us the names of the line from which Jesus came.

Matthew 1:2-3:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar.

From which of the sons of Jacob did Jesus come?

---

-----  
18. Jesus came from the family of Judah. God was at work with sinful people. God was at work to bring blessing to the world. Some day he would make a way for them to be forgiven and overcome their sins.

Stop and thank God for sending Jesus to save His people from their sins.

-----

19. Write two sins which Judah committed in the things he did with Tamar.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 6: GOD AT WORK BRINGING BLESSING TO THE WORLD**

**DAY 5: JOSEPH, THE MAN OF GOD, COULD BE TRUSTED**

**Genesis 39:1-10**

1. Write two sins which Judah committed in the things he did with Tamar.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Judah was guilty of adultery and hypocrisy with Tamar. In Genesis 39 we return to the story of Joseph. After his brothers sold him as a slave, he was taken to Egypt. There Joseph was sold again. Today we will learn what happened to Joseph in the home where he worked as a slave.

Potiphar put Joseph  
in charge of everything he had  
because God was with him and he could be trusted.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 39:1 to 6. Who bought Joseph in Egypt?

3. Joseph was bought by an Egyptian called Potiphar. He was Joseph's new master. Potiphar was an officer of Pharaoh, the great king of Egypt. Joseph was a stranger in Egypt. He was only 17 years old. This was such a hard time for Joseph. Now he was a slave instead of a much-loved son.

Read Genesis 39:2 again. Who was with Joseph as he worked as Potiphar's slave?

4. Joseph was not alone. The Lord was with him. Now we will see what can happen to a man who puts his life in the Lord's hands. God wanted to do something good and great in Joseph's life. God would use him in His plan to bring blessing to the world. In Potiphar's home Joseph prospered. But Joseph's life was very different to the others in that household.

Read Genesis 39:3 again. Who could see that the Lord was with Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Joseph's life must have been a good witness to Potiphar. This man was an Egyptian who did not worship God. But he could see that the Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar saw the reason why Joseph prospered.

Who made everything in Joseph's hands to prosper as he worked for Potiphar?

6. Potiphar could see that the Lord was with Joseph. The Lord made everything that Joseph did to prosper. Joseph's life and work under God were good in Potiphar's eyes. So Potiphar made Joseph his steward. A steward is one who takes care of another man's goods.

Read Genesis 39:4. From this verse, what did Potiphar do with all that he had?

---

---

7. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all that he had. He made Joseph his steward. This was a high position. Then we read a wonderful verse.

Genesis 39:5:

The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had, in house and field.

From this verse, why did the Lord bless the house of Potiphar, the Egyptian? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. The Lord blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake. The blessing of the Lord was upon all Potiphar had in his house and on his farm. Joseph was used by God to bring blessing to a household. The Lord was keeping His promise to Jacob that his family would bring blessing. You see that the Lord blessed a whole household because of one man of God.

Did Joseph steal or lie or become careless with anything in Potiphar's house?

---

---

9. Potiphar could put Joseph in charge of everything. He knew that Joseph would take good care of all. Potiphar could see the blessing of the Lord on his house. He knew that the Lord was with Joseph. So he put him in charge of all that he had.

Did Potiphar find Joseph a dishonest steward, or did he find he could be trusted?

---

---

10. Potiphar knew that Joseph could be trusted. That is why Potiphar had no concern or worry about anything.

Then a great temptation came to Joseph. When a man of God prospers that is often when he is tempted.

Read Genesis 39:7-10.

---

---

11. Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to lie with her. Joseph told her that his master had put him in charge of everything but her. Joseph told her that he was trusted by Potiphar. Joseph did not want to spoil Potiphar's trust by doing this evil thing.

In his temptation did Joseph honour Potiphar's trust in him? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

12. Joseph refused to listen to Potiphar's wife. He honoured Potiphar's trust in him. He would not lie with Potiphar's wife. This was a hard test for Joseph.

Read Genesis 39:8 again. What did Potiphar do with Joseph because God was with him and he could be trusted?

---

13. He put him in charge of all that he had. What a good example Joseph is to us! He chose God's way. The Lord was with him. He could be trusted.

Jesus taught that His followers are the Lord's stewards. They are stewards of things like time and strength, gifts and money, cars, farms. Everyone is to help watch over the Gospel and share it with others.

1 Corinthians 4:2:

Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (or faithful).

What does God want his servants to be? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. God wants His servants to be faithful like Joseph. They must be able to be trusted. Read about these three people. Write Can be trusted beside those who are faithful. Write Cannot be trusted beside those who are not faithful.

(1) A pastor's church gave him a car for the Lord's work. They would pay for the petrol used in the church work. He used the car for a journey to sell his grain. He also went to town to get his children at school. When he reported to the church the distance travelled, he added the kilometers for these journeys.

(2) Daudi is a Christian and works in a government office. He is always on time for work. He does not read the newspaper when his boss is out of the office. He keeps on with his work. He has asked his friends not to visit him at work. He has told them that if he talks to them, he is using the Government's time.

(3) There was a woman who taught Sunday School. She took care of the collection. She borrowed some money from it to buy tea. She put back only part of the money. No one else knew how much should have been in the bag.

---

15. We will talk about these answers in class.

The Lord was with Joseph and he could be trusted. Potiphar gave him a trusted place. The Lord was preparing Joseph. The Lord wanted to trust Joseph with much greater things. But first Joseph had to be faithful in little matters. This is always true. The Lord cannot trust us today with big matters if we are not faithful in little ones.

What did Potiphar do to Joseph because God was with him and he could be trusted?

---

**16. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all that he had. In his life as a slave the Lord was preparing Joseph. Later we will see how the Lord trusted him with bigger matters.**

**Think about your life. God has trusted you with different things. Write down many things and matters in which God wants you to be faithful.**

---

---

---

**17. Be ready to share these things in class.**

**What did Potiphar do to Joseph because God was with him and he could be trusted?**

---