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## INTRODUCTION

In the process of saving the community of Israel, Joseph confronts several character defining moments. These events challenge him to rely on God and become the deliverer God intends. The timing and process of his journey may not have been what he desired, but the result fulfilled his life's dream.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

*Read Genesis 39*

1. This chapter picks up where Genesis 37 left off—Joseph going into slavery in Egypt. In what two roles does Joseph prosper in this chapter? What reason is given in each instance?
2. In addition to Joseph, who else notices the favor he receives from the LORD? How does this change Joseph's relationship with his master?
3. As a reader of the text, you have the ability to advance to the next chapter and discover what the "future" holds for Joseph. Without this future knowledge, however, how would you expect Joseph to respond? How would similar events affect your understanding of God's favor on your life?
4. The wife of Joseph's boss makes sexual advances toward him. What three reasons does Joseph give for refusing to comply?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

5. In Hebrew literature, lists often come in sets of three, giving greater weight to the final element in the list. Why does Joseph emphasize the final element: “sin against God” (Exodus 19:1-17)? Does this perspective help him refuse her “day after day”? If so, how? (1 Corinthians 10:13)
  
6. This chapter can complicate our understanding of God. How could Joseph, on whom God’s favor rests, suffer such injustice? Why does his success rise and fall? (Matthew 5:10-12; James 1:2-8)
  
7. What role does injustice have in developing Joseph’s character? Is positive development of his character more likely because of the favor of God? Or does suffering injustice while pursuing a relationship with God result in bitterness?
  
8. Joseph’s experiences transform his character. Based on Ephesians 4:22-24, what should this transformation look like? Why is this transformation significant for a growing relationship with God? (cf. Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:1-10)
  
9. Are there obstacles you face regarding your ability to trust God in the face of injustice? How can you partner with God so that both your positive and negative experiences result in intentional transformation?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

Character transformation begins with dependence upon God. Will power and determination are essential but not sufficient. Genesis states that humanity was created in the image of God, a reflection of his character. Throughout this week, meditate on the character of God and pray concerning the challenge that he sets before you.