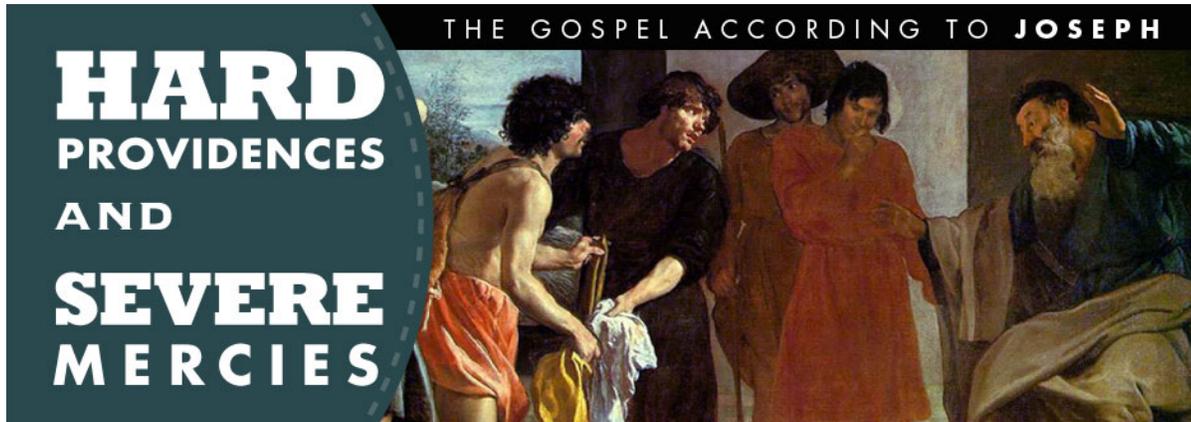


**WEEK 2 | THE INNOCENT VICTIM
GENESIS 39**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin or the [Weekly Roundup](#) as a tool to do so (**note especially Brian's ordination service on Sunday night**).

Take a few moments to pray for any needs you know of in the church. Please include the following:

- Give thanks for Brian passing his last few ordination exams, and for the 21 adults who came out for Intro to New City earlier this month. Pray that newcomers would get connected and have a place to belong at New City.
- Pray for a group of 10-15 to go on our first Mission Trip to Mazatlan, Mexico.
- Pray for our partnership with Partners India, and especially for enough financial support to be raised for the Director, Ashish Pushkaran, to go full-time with Partners India.
- Pray that things would go smoothly with the building loan and that we could close on the Floral Ave property by early December. We are still in process of getting quotes for all the renovation work.

ENGAGE (15 MINUTES)

Starter Questions: Have everyone introduce themselves and then choose one of the following questions:

- 1.) Tell us about your week (give us a high and a low).
- 2.) If you could go back and redo (or replay) one year of your life, which year would it be? Why?

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

From now until Advent, we're looking at the Joseph stories in Genesis. Not only are these incredible stories, but we learn a lot of practical lessons.

- 1.) This is a long story, so you're going to want to re-tell it a bit. **Option 1:** If you have a big enough group, split into 3 groups. Group 1 will look at verses 1-6, Group 2 at verses 7-12, and Group 3 at verses 13-23. Have each group write down the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of their story. After about 10 minutes, have each group summarize their answers. **Option 2:** For smaller groups, read the story and then re-state it as a whole by doing the Who, What, When, Where, Why questions together.
- 2.) Focusing on verses 1-6, what practical impact did God's presence have on Joseph's life?
- 3.) How is verse 5 a mini-fulfillment of a greater promise God made to his people? (Hint: see Genesis 12:1-3) How are you called to bless the people around you? How is the church called to be a blessing to our city?
- 4.) verses 7-18: What does Potiphar's wife teach us (negatively) about how to handle temptation?
- 5.) What lessons do we learn from Joseph (positively) about how to deal with temptation?
- 6.) How does the story end?
- 7.) "The Lord was with Joseph" and yet he experienced suffering, injustice and temptation. What does this teach us about how God works in our lives?
- 8.) What do you think it means to "practice the presence of God"? How can we become more aware of God's presence in our lives?
- 9.) Hand out notecards and ask everyone to write down an application. What truth do I need to believe this week? Or, what action do I need to take? Or in what way is God calling me into his mission? (Share these applications when you break up to pray, and pray for one another)

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.