



The remainder of Genesis presents the story of Joseph and his brothers, as well as the episode of Judah and Tamar ([Gen 38](#)) and Jacob's final words (ch. 49). Joseph's story is the longest in the patriarchal narratives. It leads to Israel's descent into Egypt in fulfillment of Yahweh's announcement to Abraham (15:13).¹

Joseph, being seventeen years old: This begins one of the remarkable life stories of the Bible and all literature.

Enoch shows the *walk* of faith.

Noah shows the *perseverance* of faith.

Abraham shows the *obedience* of faith.

Isaac shows the *power* of faith.

Jacob shows the *discipline* of faith.

Along these lines we could say that Joseph shows the *triumph* of faith. Joseph never complained and he never compromised.

The first part of this chapter (vv. 1–11) gives the reasons for the animosity of Joseph's brothers. The remainder (vv. 12–36) details their response to Jacob's favoritism and what they perceive as Joseph's youthful arrogance.²

Observation

1. What are some possible reasons for Israel's favoritism of Joseph?

2. How did God communicate with Joseph, does God communicate this way today? And, who does God choose to communicate in this way with, according to what you have read so far?

¹ John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), [Ge 37:1–50:26](#).

² John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), [Ge 37:1–36](#).



3. What are the repeated words in this chapter, write them down.

4. What are the repeated phrases in this chapter, write them down.

5. How is Jesus' work on the cross foreshadowed in this chapter?

Interpretation

6. What is Joseph's family dynamic?



7. Follow the cross references in your bible and try to interpret Jacob's dreams, what do you think they mean?

8. How did Jacob's brothers interpret the dreams Joseph shared with them? Was there another way to interpret what Joseph shared? How did the condition of the brother's heart influence their interpretation?

Application

9. How does the condition of your heart influence the way you interpret the things that are shared with you? Can you say that you have all the necessary information, in every case, to interpret situations and messages you receive correctly? Do you seek truth before you pass judgement?

