Question: *Do negative circumstances in your life affect your Christian faith?*

36-37:2 – The story is about Jacob's generation, not just about Joseph
- Esau's line
  - Here to conclude Isaac's history (**Do Not Read** Genesis 25:19), with both sons in his line
  - We will notice that "Edom" is mentioned a lot in Esau's generations
    - Edom is one of Israel's closest neighbours
    - At one point, Edom will be ruled by Israel's descendants
    - Edom will continually clash with Israelites (Amalek)
    - Preparing future events that involve both lines
- Account of Jacob's family, not just about Joseph
  - Promises made to Jacob (**Read** Genesis 28:13-15)
- Promises to Abraham unfolding
  - Unlike past narratives, all of Jacob's children are now part of the promised line
  - End of story, the promises made to Abraham show progress still be incomplete

37:3-36: A Spiraling Family Situation

Question: *What causes issues between siblings?*

- Israel is said to love Joseph more, "son of old age"
  - Makes a technicolour coat for his favourite
  - Family history of favouritism
    - Isaac →Esau, Rebekah→Jacob, Jacob→Rachel, Jacob→Joseph
  - Rivalry between Parents
  - Jealousy between the other children of Israel and Joseph
- Joseph's dreams (**Read** Genesis 37:5-11)
  - Two dreams point to his entire family bowing to him
  - Infuriating his siblings, rebuked by father
  - Double dreams
- Brothers are sent to pasture flock, Joseph called to report word back to father
  - After wandering around he finally reaches his brothers
  - See him in distance and plots his death
- Brothers Betray Joseph(**Read**Genesis 37:18-36)
  - Reuben, the oldest, tries to save his brother's life
  - Joseph was dumped in a pit
  - Judah incites brothers to sell Joseph to Ishmaelite

- Dream's prediction ends if he is sold
- God uses this to fulfill his dream
  - Story takes interesting turn: coat used to deceive father
    - Jacob's use of fur coat to deceive his own father
  - Jacob mourns

Question:
1) What causes us to doubt God's sovereignty?
- *Goal:*We often want God's sovereignty to mean "things happen the way I want," but our attitude should be, "All things that happen are for my good")
2) What aresome family situations that you have trouble seeing God's sovereignty in?

37:12-40:23: The Plot, Roadblocks, and God's Blessing
- Tamar and Judah
- Judah's three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah.
  - A woman named Tamar married Er, but then Er died, leaving her a widow.
- The next of kin should care for a brother's widow
  - Tamar was given to Onan, but he also died. Shelah was still a boy and could not marry Tamar, so Judah asked her to return to her father's house and wait until Shelah was grown up
- Shelah was old enough, Judah did not honor his promise.
  - Tamar remained an unmarried widow
  - Tamar then went into town disguised as a prostitute, tricked Judah, and got him to sleep with her. She then became pregnant by Judah and bore twin sons named Perez and Zerah.
- Judah calls her out for being a harlot
  - However Tamar is vindicated and Judah is reproved when he finds out the circumstances

Lesson
  - This story is here because it is Jacob's generations, not just about Joseph
  - Shows a developing Judah
    - Tamar tricks Judah, as Judah tricks Jacob
    - A little bit of redemption for Judah
  - Judah's line is important
    - Perez is in the line of Jesus
  - God's promises overcomes human failure
- **Story goes back to Joseph:**Sold to Potiphar
  - Potiphar sees God's hand in Joseph

- **Say:** *His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.*- 39:3
  - o In charge of his house
  - o Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph
  - o Joseph declines and flees
  - o Potiphar's wife, after being scorned, accuses Joseph of doing something disgraceful
- Placed in prison
  - o Joseph put into prison, yet even there he is blessed
    - **Say:** *But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love band gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.* - 39:21
  - o Put in charge of the prisoners, whatever he did, he succeeded
  - o Two prisoners have dreams, baker and cupbearer (**Read** 40:1-23)
    - Cupbearer – 3 days will be restored to old office
    - Baker – 3 days he would be killed
    - Both dreams are true
    - Asks Cupbearer to remember him to Pharaoh, to get him out as he has been falsely put here, as he was with his brothers
    - Cupbearer forgot once he was restored, Joseph remained in prison

Question:
- Is God active or inactive in this narrative?
- How have people's choices affected Joseph's life? Did the choices have a real impact on the story?
- What does Joseph's example teach us about how circumstances should affect our faith?

41:1-46: Joseph's Rise
- Pharaoh has two dreams, which no one could interpret
  - o Cupbearer remembers his promise to Joseph and recommends him to interpret the dream
  - o (**Read** 41:14-36)
  - o Joseph interprets the dream, both dreams meaning the same thing. There will be 7 years of prosperity in the land, and 7 years of famine right after
  - o Joseph appointed to be over the house of Pharaoh, only 2nd to Pharaoh himself (Read 41:39-40)

Question:
1) *Why does it sometimes seem easier to trust in our own ability over God's sovereignty?*

2) *What does this story tell us about our actions and God's sovereignty?*
- *Goal*: a) Our actions have real consequences, b) God's sovereignty overcomes all our faithlessness and evil

Conclusion
- People's choices have real impact
  - o Hated and betrayed – brothers
  - o Tempted, falsely accused, and maligned – Potiphar's wife
  - o Disappointed – cupbearer
- God's sovereignty is evident throughout this story
  - o Protected from death
  - o Given authority in the service of Potiphar and prisons
  - o Ability to interpret dreams
- God's plan of fulfillment isamazing and cannot be stopped
  - o **Say:** *But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.* - 39:21