GENESIS 36-39
JACOB'S SONS

Chapter 36 Esau's Family

Summary: Esau heads a great nation, Edom, Israel's future enemy.
Lessons: ***1.*** *Worldly greatness may come faster than spiritual greatness.* ***2.*** *Waiting while others prosper tests our faithfulness and endurance.*

Chapter 37 Joseph Is Sold By His Brothers

Summary: His brothers *hate* Joseph because he is Jacob's favorite, and because he seems destined for leadership **(1-11)**. They sell Joseph and *deceive* Jacob into thinking he is dead **(12-36)**.
Lessons: ***1.*** *Parental favoritism harms families.* ***2.*** *To be a ruler one must first become a servant* ***3.*** *Suffering tests character for exaltation.* ***4.*** *God brings good out of evil and suffering.*

Chapter 38 Judah Sins With Tamar

Summary: Judah lies to Tamar **(1-11)**. Then Judah lies with Tamar. She bears twins, and the younger, Perez, is Jesus' ancestor **(12-30)**.
Lessons: ***1.*** *Despite Judah's efforts, the line of promise continues in Perez.* ***2.*** *In spite of our sins, God's sovereignty achieves His purposes.*

Chapter 39 Joseph Is A Slave In Egypt

Summary: Joseph is bought by an Egyptian, propositioned by his wife, accused by her of rape **(1-18)**, and put in prison **(19-23)**. Joseph shows his godliness by avoiding temptation and complaining.
Lessons: ***1.*** *Wisdom counts the cost of sin.* ***2.*** *Faithfulness yields to God, not temptation.* ***3.*** *Don't exchange blessings for the pleasures of sin.* ***4.*** *Faithfulness is not discouraged by suffering—it trusts God.*