Joseph - a Successful Man
Gen. 39:2 (NKJV)

Introduction:
A. Tell Joseph's life story.
B. Joseph "was a successful man" in several areas of life:

Discussion:

I. Joseph Was Successful at Providing a Living.
A. He was a business success: In Potiphar's house and Pharaoh's house.
   1. Was not afraid of work. (cf. I Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:6-10).
   2. Was honest and upright.
B. He was successful because Lord was with him. (39:2).
   1. Lord promises to provide living for faithful. (Matt. 6:25-33).
   2. Lord does not promise "health and wealth" of TV evangelists, but does promise care for us.

II. Joseph Was Successful at Resisting Temptation.
A. Temptations that go with power and authority.
   1. Often affects political leadership: Pride, greed, abuse.
   2. Often affects business leadership:
   3. Often affects religious leadership: Preachers, elders, etc. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
B. Temptations that go with youth. (Potiphar's wife; 39:7-18).
   1. Fled fornication. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12-20).
   2. Resisted not for fear of disease, unwanted child, but fear & awe of God.

III. Joseph Was Successful at Forgiving Wrong.
A. His forgiveness of his brothers. (45:1-15).
B. His disposition made it easier to forgive.
   1. Did not react to mistreatment by brothers with bitterness.
   2. Did not react to mistreatment in Egypt with bitterness.
      a. Mistreated by Potiphar.
      b. Mistreated by chief butler. (40:23)
   3. Did good to those who despitefully used him.
C. Our disposition must be to forgive, if repentance. (Luke 17:1-4).

IV. Joseph Was Successful at Remembering God.
A. Through conditions under which many young people forget.
   1. Away from home.
   2. When mistreated.
   3. When prospering.
   4. When offered pleasure.
B. Through it all he remembered the Lord.
   1. Named Children after God. (41:50-52).
   2. Gave God glory for his prosperity. (45:9).

Conclusion:
A. Joseph is a lesson in the providence of God.
B. Joseph is good example for all, especially young people.