

## LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

### 3. Dealing with Temptation

*(Leader's Notes)*



Joseph had been sold to a group of nomadic Midianites (Ishmaelites) by his jealous brothers, and they in turn sold him to one of Pharaoh's officials in Egypt. From being a favoured son, Joseph now becomes a slave in Potiphar's house. But the Lord was with him! Let's continue to story in Genesis 39.

#### Scripture Reading: Genesis 39:1-23

- ☆ Why was Joseph's master pleased with him? V3-6  
*(He was pleased with Joseph because:*
  - *He was successful in all he did*
  - *He was trustworthy*
  - *He brought the blessing of God to the household)*



The reason Joseph was successful was because the 'Lord was with him.' We are told this 3 times in v2, 21 and 23. Do you think there is a link between the Hand of God on Joseph's life and his attitudes and actions? Discuss.

- ☆ What situation did Joseph face that could easily have caused him to sin? V7, 10, 11-12  
*(The wife of his master was trying to entice Joseph to sleep with her. She didn't only do this one time, but day after day.)*
- ☆ Immorality has become endemic in our society. What can we learn from the way Joseph handled this situation that will help us when we face similar situations? V8-10, 12, 1 Corinthians 6:18  
*(Joseph did all he could to avoid being alone with this woman, and when she tried to catch him, he fled. If we are going to keep ourselves from falling into temptation we also need to avoid being alone with a person who causes us to be tempted. There may be times when we literally need to flee, like Joseph did!)*
- ☆ What is the 'fear of the Lord', and how did it help protect Joseph in this situation? V9, Proverbs 3:7, 8:13



Is there a time in your life when you have stood against temptation because you 'feared' the Lord? Share your experience if it is appropriate.

- ☆ It isn't always easy to do what is right. It may even be costly! It certainly was costly for Joseph. In what way does this story show us that it is worthwhile to honor God? V21-23, 1 Samuel 2:30  
*(Joseph was falsely accused and punished when he did what was right. However God's Word is true. God honors those who honor him, and we see this demonstrated in the life of Joseph. Even when he was in prison God blessed him.)*

## **Conclusion**

In Psalm 112 it says, "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands." We have certainly seen that in the life of Joseph. At times we may struggle with temptation, and even be treated unfairly for trying to do what is right, however God promises he will be with us, and his blessing will follow.