

JOSEPH

Family Devotion



PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your word. Give us understanding, a humble spirit, and help us apply it to our lives.

This first devotion of the week is for families and young children

BACKGROUND

Joseph had been sold by his brothers into slavery. He was bought by a man called Potiphar, and worked for him. God blessed Joseph, and everything he did went well. Potiphar was so impressed that he put Joseph in charge of his whole house. Everything seemed to be going well for Joseph, until he met Potiphar's wife.

1

WE STUDY

Reflect on God's word in our Weekly Devotions as an individual or Family

2

WE GATHER

Together in worship on Sunday

3

WE INVEST

Time in small groups throughout the week to grow deeper as a community

Day after day, she tried to convince Joseph to do things he shouldn't. It was so difficult, that Joseph tried his best not even to be in the same room with her. He wanted to continue to do a good job and make wise choices, he also wanted to respect Potiphar. However, most of all, Joseph wanted to honor God.

SCRIPTURE

When Potiphar's wife would not stop tempting Joseph to do wrong, he said

“How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

Genesis 39:9b

STORY

Sam was so excited about his new job. He was working for his uncle in a store that re-sold old video games. It was his first job, so he tried his best to do everything right. He kept the store clean, was helpful to all the customers and tried to think of little things to help his uncle, like putting up cool displays and signs in the window.

The only thing he didn't like about his job was working with his cousin, Matt. Matt was older than Sam, and cooler. Sam always felt a little out of place around Matt, but that wasn't all. Matt did a lot of things Sam's uncle didn't know about. When they were in the store alone, Matt would steal candy off the shelf. He always wanted Sam to eat some too. Matt also would leave the store and hang out with other kids downtown, while they were supposed to be working. Matt never followed the directions at the end of the day for clean-up either.

Sam didn't mind that he had to do everything himself, he really did like the job. He did mind Matt's constant teasing though. Sam didn't like what Matt did, but he did want his older cousin to like him, and to think he was cool too. One day a box arrived and Matt cheered as he opened it. His dad had bought a pack of used games online to re-sell in the store. Inside the box were 9 copies of one of Sam's favorite games. His friend had it, but Sam had never been able to find one.

“Wow!” said Sam. “I love that game! How much do you think your Dad will sell them for?”

“These are hard to find, so they won’t be cheap.” Matt replied. “Why, do you want one?”

“I would love to get one, but I am saving my money right now to go on a trip with my youth group - I wish it was close to my birthday! I would ask my mom to grab one of those before they are gone.”

“I’ll get it for you.” Matt said. Sam looked up shocked. Matt had never been nice like this.

“You would?”

“Sure. We get games in every day. My dad doesn't even remember all the packs he bids on. I'll just record that we only received 8, and you can just take this one. **He will never know.**” Matt said confidently.

Sam’s face fell. He thought his cousin was offering to buy the game. He didn’t want to steal from his uncle.

“Never mind,” Sam said sadly.

“What? You are crazy. These games will sell out by this afternoon. Who knows when we will find more. This is your chance.” Matt tempted him.

“It’s ok. I don’t want to take it.”

Matt cackled. “You are so lame. I take games all the time. My dad has never noticed once. Anyways this store makes a lot of money and we don’t get paid near enough. You are always working - you deserve to take this game. My dad would probably give it to you anyway. Just take it.”

“No, Matt. Listen. I really like this job, and I really like Uncle Jon. I don’t want to take something from him. And I don’t want to do something that would make God sad. I would be disobeying Him.” Sam couldn’t believe how bravely he stood up to his cousin.

“Your hopeless” Matt said, as he slammed the door of the store and went out to meet his friends.



DISCUSSION

What would you have done?

What if you knew that your uncle really would have never found out? Would you have taken the game?

Have you ever had a friend try to get you to do something you knew was wrong?

God doesn't give us rules because he is mean. He gives us instructions that He knows will bless our lives. When we break a rule, by stealing or lying or anything else, we don't just hurt another person. We are sinning against God. That hurts our relationship with him.

Do you know what Joseph did when his words didn't stop Potiphar's wife?

He ran! He actually ran away from her as fast as he could. That is something we can remember. The Bible tells us to do the same thing. If you are in a situation, and you feel tempted to sin against God, run! Ask your Mom or Dad or another person you trust for help.

JOSEPH

Individual/Adult Devotion: TEMPTATION



This second devotion is appropriate for adults and families with older (Middle or High School) aged children.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you that you speak to us through your word. Please quiet my mind and let me focus on you. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, and help me to understand what you are teaching me. Help me not just to read, but to listen and obey.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 39 New International Version (NIV)

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, he bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. 2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10

And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.



*11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" **But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.***



13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. 20 Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

DISCUSSION

Where do you fit in this story? Which character do you identify with?

Maybe you are Potiphar, and there is a lot going on under your nose. You are so busy with other things, or so confident that everything is going your way that you aren't paying attention to what is happening inside your own home. No, his wife's actions are not his fault, not at all. But, we can learn that in all our relationships we must be aware and invested. Know what your spouse is watching. Know who your children are hanging out with, and what they are doing. Help them if their are struggling.

Have you played the role of Potiphar's wife? Do you tempt your friends to gossip? Do you try to steal the attention of someone who is married? Are you married, and looking outside of your marriage for attention, love or something else? Can a friend come to you when they are struggling with sin and know you will encourage them - or will you tell them its no big deal, they aren't so bad, and there are much worse

things? **Don't ever numb the conviction of the Holy Spirit in another believer.** If God has convicted them, and they confess to you, you can listen, pray for them and encourage them that God loves them and wants the best for them.

Or are you Joseph. Is there a temptation that lurks at your door day after day? Are

you worn down by it? There is something that you must understand: **Being tempted is not a sin.** Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. We will all face temptation. Sin doesn't happen until we give in. I used to feel so ashamed of being tempted, that I wouldn't say anything. Turns out, that was just my pride. I learned something really amazing. Almost always, just sharing the temptation with my husband, would remove all of it's power! It was as if bringing the issue into the light, chased away the enemy. We can also learn from what Jesus did. He responded to the enemy with the Word of God. Read Matthew 4:1-11! This is why we must know Him, and must hide his Word (scripture) in our hearts.

We can also learn from what Joseph did. Run! Don't entertain the thought. Are you tempted to lash out in anger? Walk away. Are you tempted to participate in something that would grieve the Lord? Leave the environment. Are you tempted to look at something you shouldn't? Turn off the device. What is unique about Joseph was the way he prized his relationship with God. He could not sin against Him.

Joseph cared more about his character; who he *really was before God*, than he did his reputation; *what other people think of him*.