

## Joseph

### Genesis 37 – 39

1. How did you all get along with your siblings when you were growing up? Does anyone have a short story about a squabbling with a sibling or a cousin or a friend?
2. Watch the video **Joseph**.
3. Let's quickly recap the major events in this story up to the time when Joseph is put in charge of Potiphar's house.
4. Read Genesis 39:6-10  
So, he (Potiphar) left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. And after a time, his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her.
5. Why is Joseph able to resist this temptation?
6. Why is it important that Joseph refers to the temptation as sin? What happens when we use a euphemism to talk about sin? What happens when someone refers to pride as self-esteem, adultery as a fling, a lie as fib, or drunkenness as tipsy or blitzed?
7. How does our relationship with God or our view of God affect our ability to resist temptation?
8. Read Genesis 39:17-19: What do you notice about the words that Potiphar's wife uses to describe "the attack" to her husband? Why do you think she avoids using Joseph's name?
9. In Genesis 40 we see Joseph interpreting dreams and asking the men to remember him to Pharaoh. Is Joseph taking matters into his own hands? Does this show a lack of trust in God to rescue him?
10. Joseph lingered in prison for a long time; it seemed that God was doing nothing to help Joseph. Are there times in life when you feel that God has forgotten you? What was God actually doing while Joseph was lingering in prison?
11. Do any of the following Proverbs or Psalms apply to the story of Joseph or to your own life?

**Proverbs 8:8**

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness;  
Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

**Proverbs 10:21**

The lips of the righteous feed many,  
But fools die for lack of wisdom.

**Proverbs 18:4**

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters;  
The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

**Proverbs 25:11**

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold  
In settings of silver.

**Psalm 19:14**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight Oh Lord  
my Rock and my Redeemer.

**Psalm 15:1-2**

O Lord, who may abide in Your tent?  
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?  
He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,  
And speaks truth in his heart.

**Retell the story as a group.**