

DREAMS AND DESTINY

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

WEEK 2 - FAITHFUL IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE OVERVIEW

When making his covenant with Abraham, God said, "I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:2-3). As Joseph serves in Potiphar's household, we see this promise beginning to come true as God blesses Potiphar's family and flocks. However, this cycle of blessing is threatened by the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife towards Joseph. Will this young man give in to the temptation and breach his master's trust? Thankfully, the answer is no. Joseph remains faithful, despite the consequences. After being falsely accused of attempted rape, Joseph once more finds himself in chains. This sequence of events raises important questions about our life with God. Do hardships in our lives mean God's plan has been knocked off course? Do setbacks indicate that God has abandoned his plan of salvation? Are we willing to reject temptation, regardless of the consequences, if it means staying faithful to God's desires? The story of Joseph in Potiphar's house is a strong reminder to be steadfast as we seek to live out the heart of God for our broken world.

My master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.

Genesis 39:8-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Whether you are reading Genesis or watching a prequel, what is the benefit of knowing the end of the story?
2. Read [Genesis 39:1-20](#).
 - a. What in this passage could be foreshadowing the story of the Israelites?
 - b. How do you see families being blessed through Joseph? (see [Genesis 12:3](#))
 - c. Last week we learned that *God is working even when we don't see it*. In what ways was God working behind the scenes in this part of Joseph's story?
3. Barry said, "our job is not to know the end of our story, but to trust God while we're in the middle of it."
 - a. How did Joseph's actions in Genesis 39 show that he trusted God?
 - b. What do you know about how your story will end? Is this helpful as you make decisions in your day-to-day life?
 - c. What actions do you take that show you trust God with your life?
4. Answer the questions from the overview above: Do hardships in our lives mean God's plan has been knocked off course? Do setbacks indicate that God has abandoned his plan of salvation? Are we willing to reject temptation, regardless of the consequences, if it means staying faithful to God's desires?