

Joseph Week 5 Notes

Hi Ladies! Well, we are halfway through our study. This week is packed with a lot of material that may touch some painful spots in the hearts of your ladies (work ethic when no one is watching, sexual immorality, fleeing temptation, the way we dress). I will be praying that you will be able to lovingly disciple your groups through any vulnerable moments. If I can be of any help, please reach out. Also- if you have any feedback to improve our podcast teachings, let me know as well. Love and appreciate serving the ladies alongside of you this spring.

Day 1

In this day, we look specifically about how Joseph approached his work. This may be a fun time to go around the group and find out what women's jobs are/were that work/worked outside the home- and being a homemaker is also a high and important calling.

Any insights from your ladies on work?

- Are our words about the Lord backed up by our actions at work?
- How do we feel when others are recognized or awarded?
- Can you be trusted to do your very best on the job, even when no one is watching you?
- Are others (your co-workers, your bosses) blessed by your work ethic?

Are there areas that the ladies identified where they can improve as a Christian employee? To repeat a phrase that a friend told me once- "it is good when you are convicted by the Holy Spirit- it means you are God's girl, and He is not going to let you get away with destructive behavior."

The day ends with some great verses to write down and recite during our daily commutes!

Day 2

In this day, we consider the fact that Joseph was really on his own in a foreign land. There was no one that shared his faith- he had no fellowship or teaching outside of the Lord. I liked the way the bible study author framed it- she pointed us to Scripture to encourage us, but also reminded us that the Christian life is one of persecution and loneliness. Let's face it, as a Christian, you and I will never fully fit in anywhere. We must expect it.

We looked at four great ways to better prepare ourselves to serve the Lord:

- Have accountability with other believers.
- Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.
- Put on the armor of God, because we are battling against intelligent, supernatural evil.
- Stay on Torah Road (keep your spiritual growth a top priority).

Are the ladies in your group utilizing all four of these tools?

If we stand out for our faith in the midst of persecution, then God is glorified. If we crumble and whine, then God does not appear very powerful in our lives.

Day 3

On this day, we take a look at God's view on sex, and the command to stay sexually pure. As the author points out, this is in direct contradiction to the world- some of your newer/non-believers may be surprised by this teaching. If you are sensing shame or pushback, I want to encourage you to give them space and time to process, and follow up with them to see if they have anything more they would like to discuss with you. Your group can serve as a way to open the door to more conversations.

According to the Bible- Sex is not a god. Sex is not gross. Sex is a gift. The world will tell you it is a god. Often, the church will tell you it is gross. The truth is it is a good gift from our Creator, who always knows what He is doing. We have five verses framing this paradigm that you may want to look at with your group.

Depending on the time you have, you may want to read through the verses and verbiage beginning at the bottom of 105 (1 Corinthians 6:19,20) through the end of the day.

For those struggling with past sexual sin- read through the steps at the top of page 107. There is always full forgiveness and hope available to anyone with a repentant heart.

Day 4

At the beginning of this day, we look at Mrs. Potiphar. Which character do you most relate to- Joseph or Mrs. Potiphar?

When Joseph grew up he was caught between his father and his brothers. Again, Joseph finds himself in a no win situation- does he tattle on Mrs. Potiphar to his boss? What would be the consequences? Does he give in and do what Mrs. Potiphar wants? What would be the consequences? Joseph does neither, through the Lord's wisdom, and as a result, his life is very uncomfortable, stressful and likely makes him feel frustrated and sad. And, spoiler alert- life just gets worse for him for doing the right thing.

We looked at what to do when faced with a sinful choice, like Joseph. Take some time to look up the verses. What truths did your ladies pull from Scripture?

- Marinate in God's work- it will make you strong and fruitful.
- Be wary of enticement of sinners.
- Feel free to flee!
- Don't assume you are above a specific sin- "I would never do that!" Stay diligent.
- Take every thought captive to Christ- invite Him in to reign in your mind.
- Focus on growing the fruit of the Spirit in in your life.

- Pursue that which gives eternal joy- righteousness, faith, love and peace. Sin will feel good in the moment, and then make you feel bad. It is not a source of eternal joy.

Make sure your ladies know Hebrews 4:15. How great is it that we serve a God, love a God, and obey a God who is familiar with the same temptations we face every day? Have the ladies in your group TOLD Jesus about their particular struggles, and asked for His help? Encourage them to do this!

Day 5

In this wrap up day- we remember that God is with us. That He is working to mold and shape us into His image. That can be painful, but rewarding in the end. We can trust God and His motives always.

I always like to be reminded of David- he sinned grievously in his life, and yet was described as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). It was not that David was perfect (far from it) but that David fully trusted Yahweh, worshipped Yahweh and heeded his conviction.

Are we willing to submit to the conviction and correction of the Holy Spirit, when we are made aware of sin? THAT is the defining characteristic of a Jesus follower. Not perfection – but believing in the promises of God, and being a loyal follower of Him.