

SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Potiphar's Wife

Read Genesis 39:1-19

Small Group Opener:

So what is so tempting about temptation? _____

Please look up these verses and answer that following questions before October 18th:

1. Re-read Genesis 39:5-7. Who are the male characters in this biblical story? _____

• How is the woman identified? _____

• Why do you think her name is not included in this story? _____

2. Read Isaiah 43:1. Did God know the name given to Potiphar's wife? _____

3. In Genesis 39:6, was Potiphar at all to blame for his wife's wandering eye? _____

If so how did he fail her? _____

4. From Genesis 39:7 what do you think Potiphar's wife was doing for "a while" before she propositioned Joseph? _____

• It's obvious what Mrs. P had on her mind. How can we fill our idle time (if you have any!) with appropriate thoughts? _____

• Some women remain physically pure yet indulge in a romantic, even sexually explicit fantasy life. What does Jesus tell us in Matthew 5:27-28? _____

• What good advice about directing our minds "towards the good and holy" can we glean from I Thessalonians 4:3-7 and Colossians 3:5? _____

5. What do we learn from Genesis 39:10 about what Joseph did to resist her advances?

6. Joseph did the right things Mrs. Potiphar did the wrong thing - again, still - and ran her mouth. Read Genesis 39:13-15. To whom did she lie first? _____

7. Read Genesis 39:16. Why do you think she kept his cloak handy? _____

8. Mrs. P repeated her false accusation in Genesis 39:17-18. To whom was she speaking?

• How is this statement about Joseph's supposed indiscretions different than the one a few verses earlier? _____

• What does this reveal about Mrs. P's motivations? _____

9. Read Genesis 39:19. Her anger triggered someone else's wrath...whose? _____

GOING FURTHER

(additional study)

The temptation of sin one of the key spiritual issues in our study today. Temptation is the solicitation to do evil with the promise of benefit. *"Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it"* (or it will master you). As one author put it *"I can resist anything except temptation."*

There are four basic responses to temptation:

1. Give in (because it feels good)
2. Resist it (fight it...this is the hardest)
3. Wish it away (of course it never goes away)
4. Underestimate it (which often finds us slowly being swallowed up by it)

Read James 1:13-15, here James describes the dynamics of the "evolution of sin." Let us quickly note that the first word to underscore in our minds is *when* we are tempted, not *if*. Temptation will always be present in the believer's life. Yet, as James points out, we should never say that God is tempting us; temptation is a result of Original Sin.

Three steps to the dynamic of temptation are aptly illustrated through a fishing metaphor:

1. The "bait" is dropped into the water. The world and the Evil One is good at casting tempting sin into our life.
2. We are attracted to the bait. Why? Because our "own evil desire" which lay inside of us seeks satisfaction. As Paul stated it, *"We do what we don't want to do."* (Romans 7:15).

3. Temptation turns into sin when we yield to it. *"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."* (James 1:15).

Read I Corinthians 10:13. What promise is made to us regarding our ability to handle temptation on a daily basis? _____

Discover the reality concerning Jesus and temptation in Hebrews 4:14-16. In what way(s) is this helpful to us as Christians? _____

Two words summarize a successful life strategy for overcoming the temptations of life:
Avoid and Resist.