

QUESTION 6

- a) We should never think that we are out of the reach of temptation.
- b) The enemy will always try and trip us up. Especially when things seem to be going well.
- c) We should be firm on the word of God. (Remember Jesus' use of scripture when he was tempted in **Matthew 4:1-11**).
- d) We should immediately say no to temptation but be aware that it will not just go away.
- e) We should avoid situations where we know we might face temptation.
- f) As the hymn puts it: *"Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin; each vict'ry will help you some other to win. Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue; look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through"* (Horatio R Palmer).

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 4

QUESTION 1

- a) He must have felt heartbroken. He was far from home and probably fearing what would happen to him.
- b) He must have felt the pain of having being rejected and ill-treated by his brothers.
- c) Now he has just been put up for auction in the market square and sold to the highest bidder.
- d) Roger Ellsworth suggests he would feel a mixture of confidence and confusion. *"The confidence was due to the fact that God had revealed that he would use Joseph to bring his family back to faith in God. The confusion was due to the fact that he was now in Egypt as a slave to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's bodyguard"*.
- e) He must of thought of those dreams which had indicated that one day he would rule. Yet here he was a slave in a foreign land.
- f) But note the opening of verse 2. The covenant God is with Joseph! (compare Stephen's speech in **Acts 7:9**).

QUESTION 2

- a) Joseph could have resented his situation. But he clearly trusted God; despite his circumstances.
- b) His confidence was in God (see **Romans 8:28**).
- c) He went about his work in a way that would give testimony to his faith in God (see **Colossians 3:17**).
- d) He didn't complain but performed his duties to the best of his ability.
- e) Remember that Joseph is only 17 years old! Here he shows moral and spiritual maturity.
- f) We see the result of this in verse 3 as Potiphar not only sees that God is with Joseph but that God was working through him.

- g) Joseph finds favour in his master's sight.
- h) Interestingly we see Potiphar being blessed because of Joseph's faithfulness.
- i) As a result, he is given more and more responsibility.
- j) Verse 6 is quite something. It shows how much Joseph was trusted.

QUESTION 3

- a) The temptation was totally unexpected.
- b) It was intense (**verse 10**). This made it difficult to resist.
- c) Sexual attraction is a powerful thing. Whether it is controlled or not can either make or break a person.
- d) Things could have gone dreadfully wrong at this point.
- e) Joseph was destined to become a leader. How would he deal with this latest challenge?
- f) Notice that the writer intentionally tells us in verse 6 that Joseph is physically attractive.
- g) Joseph's character here in chapter 39 is being contrasted with that of his elder brother Judah in chapter 38. He gave into temptation whilst Joseph resisted it.
- h) Indeed, Joseph will become Judah's saviour (see **Genesis 45:5**).
- i) Chapter 38 might seem irrelevant in the wider story. Yet it shows the ongoing family tree through which God would bring ultimate redemption through the coming of the Messiah.
- j) It shows us that God is faithful to His promises.
- k) It would be through Judah's line that Jesus would come. Revelation 5:5 describes Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- l) God works despite us, and will always work his purposes out. Judah was unworthy but God keeps His covenant promise.

QUESTION 4

- a) He immediately said no. To say no to a sin makes it easier to resist the next time.
- b) She was someone's wife. Joseph had a right view of marriage.
- c) To yield would be to sin against God. We see David having to admit this after his adultery with Bathsheba: **Psalm 51:4**.
- d) Joseph stands firm on God's word (**Galatians 5:16**).
- e) Joseph took practical steps to avoid temptation (**verse 10**). He made sure he did not get himself into a vulnerable position; avoiding Potiphar's wife as much as possible.
- f) Even when he is unable to avoid the situation, we see in verse 12 that he runs as soon as something might happen.
- g) Notice that this temptation was not a one off. Joseph had to fight off the temptation time and time again (**verse 10**).

QUESTION 5

- a) Jesus, like Joseph was appointed to be the Saviour of His people.
- b) Jesus was also tempted in a way that had He given in, He would have been disqualified from the work He was there to do.
- c) Jesus was also triumphant over temptation; even though He too would later be falsely accused.
- d) Jesus work was to do the will of God.