

D24. Joseph and Potiphar

Genesis 39:1-23

Memory Verse

“It is God who arms me with strength.” --Psalms 18:32 (NKJ)

Bible Lesson

Message:

Stand up for your God.

So Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. But God was with him. He ended up in the house of Potiphar, who was the captain of the palace guard for the Pharaoh (the king of Egypt). The Lord was with Joseph. He gave him great success. Joseph lived in Potiphar's house.

Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph. He saw that the Lord gave Joseph success in everything he did and Potiphar was pleased with him. He made Joseph his attendant and put him in charge of his house. He told Joseph to take good care of everything he owned. From that time on, the Lord blessed Potiphar's family and servants because of Joseph. He blessed everything Potiphar had in his house and field. So Potiphar told Joseph to take good care of everything he owned. With Joseph in charge, he didn't have to worry about anything except the food he ate.

Potiphar's wife was not such a good person. She kept trying to get Joseph to do what wasn't right. She wanted him to break the 6th commandment. But Joseph said no. He said, "My master has put me in charge. Now he doesn't have to worry about anything in the house. He trusts me to take care of everything he owns. No one in this house is in a higher position than I am. My master hasn't held anything back from me, except you. You are his wife. So how could I deceive my master and sin against God?"

Day after day, Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to change, but Joseph kept saying no, because he knew it was wrong. One day, she grabbed him by his coat, and Joseph ran away. But Potiphar's wife still held the coat, and she accused Joseph of a crime, using the coat as evidence that he was there. When Joseph's master heard her story, he became very angry. So he put Joseph in prison. It was the place where the king's prisoners were kept. While Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was still with him and he showed him kindness.

The man who was running the prison was also pleased with Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of all of the prisoners and made him accountable for everything that was done there. The man who ran the prison didn't pay attention to anything that was in Joseph's care. The Lord was with Joseph and he continued to give Joseph success in everything that he did.

Talk About It

In today's story, Joseph was constantly under pressure by Potiphar's wife to do things that he knew were not right. They were not good and pleasing to God, and Joseph was able to resist temptation and do the "right" thing.

Talk with your child. Sometimes it is really hard to go against what our "friends" want us to do and choose to do the right thing. Ask your child if this has ever happened to him. Share a time when this may have happened to you. Help your child see that peer pressure is a normal part of life, but it is often very hard to stand up to. Even though we want to make good choices every day, sometimes we make some not so good choices because the pressure to be accepted by our friends is too strong. One thing we can do is continue to pray that God will give us the wisdom to see through the pressures we face every day and the strength to make good choices. Pray together. Talk about it.