thrive
A HOPE WOMEN'S GATHERING

Persevering Faith: Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Lesson 4: Principled
Teacher: Shirley Hayes
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INTRODUCTION:

READING: Genesis 39: 6-16 (CSB)

"Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. [7] After some time his master's wife looked longingly at Joseph and said, "Sleep with me."

[8] But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's wife, "with me here my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has put all that he owns under my authority. [9] No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do this immense evil, and how could I sin against God?"

[10] Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her. [11] Now one day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the household servants were there.[12] She grabbed him by his garment and said, "Sleep with me!" But leaving his garment in her hand, he escaped and ran outside. [13] When she saw that he had left his garment with her and had run outside, [14] she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "my husband brought a Hebrew man to make fools of us. He came to me so he could sleep with me, and I screamed as loud as I could. [15] When he heard me screaming for help, he left his garment beside me and ran outside."

[16] She put Joseph's garment beside her until his master came home. [17] Then she told him the same story: "The Hebrew slave you brought to us came to make a fool of me, [18] but when I screamed for help, he left his garment beside me and ran outside."

TABLE STUDY:

1. What was Joseph's reason for refusing Potiphar's wife?

2. Compare Joseph and Potiphar's wife. What are three words to describe Joseph? What are three words to describe her?

3. Do you think Mrs. Potiphar really cared for Joseph? What clues in the scriptures tell you this?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. Who has been an example of integrity in your life? What was it about their actions that were inspiring?

2. How would you define integrity in your own life?

3. Where is your struggle with fear of man over fear of God most likely to be tested? (Relationships, gossip, money, etc.)

4. Discuss the difference between testing and temptation. Why do you think it's important to know the difference?

UNISON READING: Genesis 50:20

"You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it."