

Men in the Bible

Applying Truths from Their Lives to Today

Joseph

- Joseph was a favored son (37:1-14)
- Joseph was a forsaken brother (37:15-28; 39:1)
- Joseph was a forgotten servant (39:19-40:23)
- Joseph was a famous leader (ch. 41-50)
- Joseph exemplified spiritual fortitude (ch. 39-40)
- Joseph fled from sin (39:7-18)
- Joseph was forgiving of those who wronged him (ch.45-50)
- Joseph was full of faith (50:25; Heb.11:22)
- ★ Joseph was a MAN of God. For us to be **God's man**, we must resist temptation, forgive others, and be faithful and loyal to Him no matter the situation or circumstance.

Discussion Questions

1. Think about the temptation Joseph faced in Genesis 39. Wouldn't it have been easy for Joseph to fall to that temptation? Do we face temptations today? How can we stand firm against those temptations? (James 1:14-15; 1 Cor. 6:18; Prov. 5-7)

Joseph could have easily fallen to temptation. He could have been bitter about his situation and rejected God. He could have said he deserved the pleasure to replace all of his heartache. But he rejected temptation. Why? He remembered his responsibility to his employer and, most of all, to His God. Joseph made the decision to follow God and not give in to temptation. We have many temptations in this world — power, wealth, popularity, pleasures, etc. We must make the firm commitment to follow God daily, before we face temptations.

2. Joseph demonstrated forgiveness to his brothers (ch. 45-50). Sometimes we feel wronged and have a difficult time forgiving others. Why was Joseph able to forgive? How can we go forward and be free from any bitterness or anger to others?

Joseph did not claim “his rights”; i.e., ‘I deserve this’. Joseph decided to trust God and be His representative wherever he was placed, in good or bad situations. We must remember Ephesians 4:31-32. God wants us to lay aside all bitterness in our lives. Joseph had been sold as a slave and abandoned by his brothers but he laid aside all bitterness. By laying aside his bitterness, God was able to use him in an extraordinary way.

3. Joseph showed great leadership skills as “second in command” in Egypt. What characteristics did he demonstrate that we should have in our lives today?

He was a careful planner. He was willing to make tough decisions, looked out for the welfare of others even when they did not understand his actions, and was a person with high integrity that could not be bribed. And, most of all, he followed God.

4. Joseph was a man of faithfulness and great faith, even at the end of his life. Why was he a man of great faith? How can we have the depth of faith he had? What was his legacy left from his life?

His legacy was shown in chapter 50. He commanded, from his death bed, that his bones be carried back to the Promised Land. He let everyone know, and future generations, he believed and trusted God. His faith was rooted in God’s promises. He simply believed God for what He said. (see Genesis 50:25-26; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32)

Commitment

Pray to God today. Repent from falling to temptation. Yield to Him for His leadership and control of your life. Declare your loyalty to God. Dedicate your life to Him.