

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of September 11 - 17, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Along the journey to God's purpose, our faithfulness will be tested so that God can trust us with even more blessings. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, "the Lord was with Joseph," causing him to prosper in the house of his Egyptian master (Genesis 39). From this place of authority and blessing, Joseph's faithfulness was tested.

1. God will allow our faithfulness to be tested so He can trust us with true authority.

"Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, 'Lie with me.'⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?' ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her." (v. 6-10 ESV)

- Joseph did the right thing amid temptation because his heart was set on being faithful to God.

2. True faithfulness is costly and reveals our hearts.

"But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me.' But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house... ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, 'See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice... ¹⁵he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.'... ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison." (v. 11-20 ESV)

- Being faithful to God can be costly; it got Joseph thrown in prison. Faithfulness could cost us social status, opportunities, or persecution.

3. Faithfulness invites God's favor.

"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²²And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed." (v. 21-23 ESV)

- No matter what we may "lose," being faithful to God will result in blessing and fulfilling God's will for our lives.
- Just as the Lord caused Joseph to prosper in prison, He can cause us to prosper no matter what and position us for an even greater purpose.

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹²And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:10-12 NIV)

Discussion Questions: (break up into groups of 3-4 to discuss)

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon and the main thoughts and scriptures, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- Share an example of how your faithfulness was tested in the past. What happened, and what did you learn through that?
- How is your faithfulness to God being tested right now? What challenges are you facing as you seek to be faithful to God? How does the promise of God's blessing help encourage you to be faithful? Explain.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for one another to remain faithful to God amid all of life's temptations and challenges.
- Pray for one unreached friend or family member who is being tested. Pray that God will enable us to help them on their spiritual journeys as well.