

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART FIVE: CATASTROPHIC SUCCESS

TEXT: GENESIS 39

INTRODUCTION.

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION.

What motivates you to work hard, be ambitious, and do your best?
Why?

EXAMINATION.

- Vv.1-6 What indication(s) do we have that Joseph did not let adverse circumstances hold him down?
- What do you think is involved in the "success" Joseph has? (Compare how the same word is used in Genesis 24:21, 20, 42, 56.)
- Why would the Lord bless Potiphar because of Joseph?
- Vv.7-10 How was Joseph able to resist Mrs. Potiphar's advances?
- Vv.11-18 Besides propositioning Joseph, what other things indicate that Mrs. Potiphar is not a nice lady?
- Vv.19-23 Joseph is not crushed by all this unjust treatment, instead he continues to rise to the top. What is he thinking/believing/feeling that allows him to react this way?
- What did success in prison look like for Joseph?

APPLICATION.

- TRUE SUCCESS MEANS I MAKE PLEASING GOD MY PRIORITY. Consider this principle and discuss how this perspective might change your approach to work, home, school, or church.

- What are some specific characteristics seen in Joseph that God is calling you to display in your life?
- How does your idea of “success” need to change in light of this story?
- How can the example of Joseph help you to resist temptation in general and sexual temptation in particular?
- If faithfulness is how God measures success, how does God reward it? (James 1:12, 2 Timothy 2:5, 1 Corinthians 9:25)
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?