**1. Motivate**

When have you seen someone simply refuse to quit?

* football player going for extra yards
* basketball team that fought back and won
* student who struggled with a class but hung on and passed with a good grade
* a two-year-old who insisted on doing something himself … “I do it!”
* a fisherman who goes out every day, no matter the weather
* that person who irritates you every day … pesters you despite your objection
* the person who buys a lottery ticket every week, hopes some day to hit the big one

**2. Transition**

Today we continue with the study of Joseph.

* He was treated unjustly by his brothers, then by his employer.
* We will see that he pressed forward in spite of injustice.

**3. Bible Study**

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_jfzpzv3e> . if you have no
wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/2p98a7za>

3.1 Stay the Course

Listen for Joseph’s new job.

Genesis 39:21-23 (NIV) the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

In what ways does this episode parallel Joseph’s rise to success in Potiphar’s house?

* again we read “the Lord was with him”
* God showed him kindness
* granted him favor in the eyes of the warden
* was given important responsibility

What evidence suggests that Joseph made diligent effort even in dark circumstances?

* made responsible for all that was done there
* warden paid no attention to anything under joseph’s care
* again, had success in whatever he did

What might cause you to question God due to your circumstances?

* in health crises
* in financial reversals
* when family members get “off track”
* when people we have depended on fail us

What is your first reaction when someone acts unjustly towards you?

* revenge
* anger
* disappointment
* gonna fix this!
* how could they do that to me?
* who do they think they are?

Why do our circumstances affect our view of God’s love and loyalty to us?

* when something bad happens, we wonder “where was God, why didn’t He protect me?”
* when things are going well, it’s easy to say, “God is good all the time!”
* when things are bad it’s much harder to say that, or even believe that
* we cannot always understand God’s purposes short term or even long term
* we don’t know the background of what God is doing
* look at Job, he really struggled with what had happened … not only with what God allowed, but with his “friends”

He is sold as a slave and becomes second in the household of Potiphar. He is thrown in prison and is put in charge of the prisoners. What does this tell us about Joseph?

* each time we read that “the Lord was with him”
* must have been a man of faith
* was listed in the Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrews 11
* trusted God even when treated unjustly

Ultimately, to what was Joseph’s success to be attributed ?

* it was God who was with him
* God showed him kindness
* God granted him favor in eyes of the warden
* the Lord gave him success

So, how do *we* remain faithful when we find ourselves where we didn’t expect to be?

* keep making the right choices
* keep trusting God
* talk to God, tell Him your troubles/problems
* ask God to help you know what to do
* do what you know is right, even though things are falling apart around you

3.2 Don’t Take It Out on Others

Listen for two dreamers.

Genesis 40:4-8 (NIV) The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, 5 each of the two men--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison--had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?" 8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

In addition to being in prison, what else caused two new prisoners to be troubled?

* each had a dream that seemed to have important meaning or significance
* they both had their dreams the same night
* since they were in jail, they had no access to someone who specialized in dream interpretations

What words or actions suggest Joseph was sensitive to and concerned about their well-being?

* Joseph was given responsibility for these men
* when he came to them the morning after their dreams, he could see they were dejected
* asked why they appeared so sad
* showed concern for their discomfort, their worry

What did Joseph say about dreams?

* interpretations belong to God
* tell me the dreams

How might Joseph have begun to recognize that he was in prison for a purpose?

* he was given responsibility
* God’s blessing was still upon him
* he was still shown favor by the person in charge
* he could still sense God’s presence and guidance
* here were some people he could help
* God brings important people across his path – people with possible influence for his case

What are some ways we can demonstrate God’s concern to others, especially when we are struggling with some life event?

* we find about someone’s recent problem (family, health, an accident …)
* they may be going through troubles also, we have something in common
* we can be someone who is willing to listen
* sometimes just listening to them share is helpful for them
* other times we might have the capability to offer help
* we can pray with them, right there … and promise to keep praying

3.3 Don’t Get Discouraged

Listen for who is forgetful.

Genesis 40:20-23 (NIV) Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand, 22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. 23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

What happened at Pharaoh’s birthday party?

* gave a feast for all the officials
* as a part of the celebration, he brought the baker and cupbearer out of prison
* by special dispensation he restored the cupbearer
* maybe as part of the rowdy entertainment, he hanged the baker

What did the chief cupbearer not do? Why?

* he went back to work
* he forgot about Joseph and his help
* maybe he didn’t want to press his recent good fortune and impose on Pharaoh

Why did Joseph have good reason to be disappointed?

* butler/cupbearer did not remember to put in a good word for Joseph
* he forgot all about Joseph who had interpreted his dreams

How can we manage disappointment, anger, resentment, and sadness when we have not been treated fairly or let down by others?

* daily filling your mind with God’s Truth
* read God’s Word and think about what you read, meditate on it
* apply God’s Truth to your life
* pray about the situation … tell God how you feel
* pray for those who have mistreated you

How can we be encouraged to keep doing what God has gifted us to do, even when you receive little or no credit for it?

* remember that we are each a member of the Body of Christ
* God intends that we minister to each other
* He gifts us with specific skills just for ministering to each other
* we need each other
* be ready and willing to put your Spiritual gift to use
* our spiritual gift is not used to bring glory to ourselves, it is to minister to fellow believers
* even if only one person is helped or blessed by what you do, God is at work in His way and timing

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Pray.

* Pray for patience, one of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in your life.
* Pay attention to situations this week where you tend to lose your patience.
* Ask the Holy Spirit to help you endure patiently in these moments.



Write.

* Write an inspiring Bible verse on a sticky note and attach it to your computer.
* Every time you’re tempted to whine about your circumstances, pray that verse.

Read.

* Read through a great devotional book this month, like *Experiencing God* or *The Pursuit of God.*
* Draw from the well of others.

These two messages were just received from different operatives in Kiantsermal. Our consulate forwarded them to our headquarters for decoding. The top paper is the key (note that some letters are missing), the bottom is the message. Our decoders are busy at a middle school basketball practice. We need your help. Forward your solution to the president of the junior high youth group. Tutorial help and other fun Family Activities are available at <https://tinyurl.com/2p98a7za>