



The Courage to Flee Like Joseph

Adapted from "Courage" series by Dennis Marquardt

We need "courageous men"! Today, men are afraid to stand up for moral righteousness. We live in a time when moral absolutes are frowned upon. The standard of the day is to simply accept everything in the name of tolerance. The truth is that we need the courage to stand up for those things that God has declared righteous and stand against those things that God has declared unrighteous.

When it comes to sexual morality, the world today is shouting a plethora of messages to our young people, many of them contrary to God's Word. Some are saying that sex before marriage is just a natural expression of hormones so there is nothing wrong with having sex outside of marriage. Others say "everyone has sex; you're strange if you don't" or "kids are going to have sex anyways so we might as well help them know how to be safe." So, who or what is right? Who will have the courage to speak up and take a stand, to tell this world that it is possible to flee from sexual sin?

The Bible teaches that God's call for sexual purity offers the best protection for body, mind, and soul. God's Word also teaches that for those who have already broken this sexual purity they can experience forgiveness and still enjoy being sexual pure again. It is never too late with God's help and grace to be courageous and flee from sexual sin.

COURAGE

C1: When you hear the word courage what comes to mind? Why?

C2: Describe a time in your life where you had to admit you had failed, asked for forgiveness, and got back up. Make sure you include how much courage it took for you to do this.

C3: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 39:6–10 (ESV) So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But 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. He 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?" And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

- Joseph had courage to flee from Potiphar's wife and her advances. Why does it take courage to walk away from what the world says is right regarding sexual integrity?
- Although Joseph had a dysfunctional family, he remained faithful to God. How do your family relationships effect your walk with God?
- Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife. How are you being tempted by Satan regarding your integrity? Be specific.

C4: Over the next thirty days, meet with three men and discuss what you struggle with in the area of sexual temptations. Find the courage to be truthful. Formulate a plan of attack where you can flee like Joseph.

STRENGTH

S1: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 39:1-23 (ESV)

- Where did Joseph find the strength to flee the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife?
- Despite Joseph's dysfunctional home life, he remained one of the most consistent and obedient servants of God. What have you learned through these verses to help you find the strength in God to be a man of purity and integrity?
- Although Joseph was thrown into prison, he still had God's blessing. Describe a time in your life where you felt like you were thrown in prison. Looking back, do you see God's blessing? Be specific.

S2: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 45:1-5 (ESV)

- How can God use you as an instrument of healing and restoration in your families?
- How should you share the importance of sexual purity and integrity with your children? How would you tell them to have courage in the face of temptation?

S3: On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how much moral courage you have. Write out a plan to improve.

S4: If you are a father, in the next seven days, talk to your children about this lesson. What did you glean from this conversation?

ENDURANCE

E1: Read and answer the following.

Genesis 39:1-23 (ESV)

- Typically, if a man flees it is a sign of weakness and insecurity not courage. How does Joseph fleeing speak to you about courage and not weakness?
- Joseph had the courage to stand pure for God despite what he was going through. How does the man of God today find the courage to remain faithful to God during their temptations?

E2: It is somewhat ironic that **Genesis 39 (ESV)** deals with Joseph successfully conquering sexual temptation. In **Genesis 38 (ESV)** you read about one of his older brothers Judah who committed sexual sin with a prostitute that turned out to be related to him and the pain that resulted from the sin. Read **Genesis 38-39 (ESV)**.

- How can you share that despite the world's view of sexual activity, God has a plan for you to remain faithful and full of integrity?
- In spite of what happened in his home, Joseph never gave up a life of integrity. How can Joseph's faithfulness to God, despite times of failure, speak to you today?

E3: Read **Genesis 39 (ESV)**. Write down five things you learned from this chapter. How can you implement them into your daily life?

E4: In the next thirty days, meet with three men and discuss this lesson. What did you deduce from the conversation?