

WEEK OF
MARCH 7, 2010

JOURNEY GROUP QUESTIONS



GROW.

OUR MISSION: *Leading people on a life-changing journey to follow Jesus Christ. [Matthew 11:28-30]*

JOURNEY OUR WEEKLY JOURNEY TAKES FOUR STEPS IN FOLLOWING JESUS CHRIST:

Love God. [matthew 22:37] through WORSHIP **Grow** in God. [2 john 1:6] through GROUPS

Serve God. [1 peter 4:10] through TEAMS **Share** God. [acts 1:8] through OUTREACH

TITLE: RUN JOE RUN

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please note the following guide is a suggested discussion guide, you may not be able to cover every question in your time together. However, it is important to make sure you allow time to read over the Scripture passages and time to pray together.

(If possible, this is really a good week to separate men and women. The possibility for more open and honest discussion is more likely if you take time to segregate your group.)

1. **Icebreaker:** Why do you think people often succumb so easily to temptation?
2. **Read Genesis 39.** (Listen online to the podcast at <http://www.westridge.com/grow/questions/> for more background on this text)
 - ❖ **Question:** According to the text, why did God bless Potiphar's household?
 - ❖ **Question:** Why do you think God would allow Joseph to be tempted?
 - ❖ **Question:** How would you describe Joseph's relationship to God?
 - ❖ **Question:** How would you describe Joseph's attitude and perspective in light of his circumstances?
 - ❖ **Question:** Did God ever abandon Joseph as his circumstances changed? Do you think Joseph ever felt like God had abandoned him?
3. **Review these facts about temptation:**
 - ❖ God does not tempt us.
 1. **Read James 1:13-14** – "13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each of you is tempted when you are dragged away by your own evil desire and enticed"
 2. **Read Matthew 4:1** – "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil."
 3. **Read 1 Timothy 6:9** – "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction."
 4. **Question:** Where does temptation originate according to these verses?
 5. **Question:** Are you currently facing repeated temptation in your life much like Joseph was with Potiphar's wife?
 - ❖ God will be our advocate during times of temptation.
 1. **Read Hebrews 2:18** – "Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."
 2. **Read Hebrews 4:15** – "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with

our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”

3. **Question:** What insight and comfort do these verses give you concerning the temptation you face?
4. **Question:** Practically speaking, how can you apply this truth to any temptations you are currently facing?

❖ You have to prepare for it.

1. **Read Mark 14:38** – “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”
2. **Read Matthew 6:13** – “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”
3. **Question:** According to these verses how do you prepare for temptation?
4. **Question:** Are you preparing yourself daily to face any temptations you may face?

❖ If necessary you have to run from it.

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 6:18** – “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13** – “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”
3. **Read 2 Timothy 2:22** – “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
4. **Read 1 John 4:4** – “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”
5. **Question:** What insight do you gain from these verses regarding temptation?
6. **Question:** In what situations do you need to flee or run from temptation?
7. **Question:** Is there any temptation you are facing now that you need to run away from?

4. **Closing.** It is important to remember that we have forgiveness in Christ if we have given into temptation. **James 5:16** tells us, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Take time to do this with each other in your group. Remember and reiterate the group value of safety and confidentiality. There has to be an understood and agreed upon commitment that what is shared is done so in confidence and not to be repeated outside the group. If you are separating into men and women, I highly recommend you reiterate whether or not this confidentiality applies to sharing information discussed with their spouse. Make sure there is mutual understanding of what it means to be confidential.

OTHER INFO

- (Verse comments and notes are taken from gotquestions.org, the NIV Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible by Zondervan, and Christian Theology by Millard Erickson.)

Meditate and Memorize

1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to us all. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”
