

## COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

*This study guide is meant to help you learn and apply the truths of Scripture to your life right now, both individually and with your community group. To get the most from these guides, work through it on your own before gathering with your community group. If you aren't in a community group, consider attending the next Starting Point at Mercy Church, where you can take the next steps to connect with a community group in your area. RSVP at [mercycharlotte.com/connect](http://mercycharlotte.com/connect).*

### For Our Good: The Life of Joseph - Part 3

*Leader, this is a good week to have separate discussions for males and females. The passage exposes much of the struggle within sexual sin. It is best to have this discussion in separate groups to promote a healthy and appropriate discussion.*

#### INTRODUCTION

**LEADER NOTES:** *Welcome your members to the group. Use the discussion questions to help your group members observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures to life.*

#### **THE BIG IDEA: Fighting sexual sin is a Gospel fight.**

As we dive into to week three of our study on the life of Joseph, we come to chapter 39, where we encounter the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. In verse 1, Joseph was in Egypt under the watchful eye of Potiphar. Potiphar was an officer of Pharaoh. We also learn that God was with Joseph in Egypt and made Joseph as successful man because he honored God. Potiphar notices Joseph's success and makes him overseer of his own house. God blessed the Potiphar's house under Joseph's oversight.

The story quickly changes by verses 7-8, when we learn that Potiphar's wife covets to sleep with Joseph. While Potiphar's wife seeks her own pleasure, we see a very different reaction from Joseph.

As the story continues, Potiphar’s wife tries to get Joseph to sleep with her. She grabs Joseph’s garment to try and keep him with her. However, Joseph flees the scene. Potiphar’s wife, upset because she didn’t get her way, turns on Joseph, falsely accusing him of attempted rape. Potiphar believes her and has Joseph tossed into jail. But, the last few verses end very similar to the way the chapter began. In prison, the Lord is with Joseph (vs. 23), blesses Joseph, and he begins to prosper in the prison.

Just as we saw in Genesis 38, God works through a difficult situation to bring about blessing. Genesis 39 is further proof that God’s faithfulness to fulfill his purposes will overcome even the most difficult situations. The story shows us the brutal nature of our sexual sin, but also the constant presence of God in the midst of our sin and struggle.

## STUDY AND DISCUSSION

**LEADER NOTES:** *These questions are here to help your group get their minds re-engaged with the passage and teaching points from the weekend message. Think of this as “priming the pump” for a more interactive discussion in your time together.*

In the message we heard of the destructive nature of sin, but also the blessing of God. As we work through these topics, use these questions as a reference point to help your understanding.

1. What was the big point that stood out to you from the sermon this past weekend?
2. Why is sexual sin the “acceptable sin” of our day?

## INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

The following questions are designed to help you gain understanding of what the Bible teaches.

**LEADER NOTES:** *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed.*

*The reading of the word, as a group, is an act of worship that helps the group focus on the importance of Scripture. Make a point to emphasize this as an important part of worship together. After the scripture is read, pray to continue to set the tone of worship. Praise God for the gospel and the finished work of Christ, and the transformation he gives through Christ.*

### Read Genesis 39

1. In today's culture, sex isn't talked about much in the church. Why do you think that is?
2. According to one research outlet, Christian millennials believe not recycling is a bigger sin than sex outside of marriage. Why is sex outside of marriage treated so casually among Christians?
3. Potiphar's wife consistently seeks to serve her own desires. How do her actions show the effects of sin on us when we consistently give into it?
  - Lying
  - Covering up
  - Bringing shame to others
  - Causes Joseph to be imprisoned wrongfully
  - Potiphar's wife intentionally seeks immorality with Joseph. How does sexual sin often try to deceive and destroy us?
  - Promises something it can't deliver
  - It often looks really good on the surface
  - It gives false hope
  - Dulls sex which was God's idea and turns it into a commodity
  - Reshapes our thinking about sex, healthy to unhealthy
4. Sex is designed for marriage. However, outside of the context of marriage it leads to destruction. Have you ever seen lives destroyed by sex outside of marriage? How so?

5. God calls us to a standard of purity in sexual relationships (Ephesians 5:3). What are some practical ways can we fight against the temptation of sexual sin in our daily lives?
  - Constant confession
  - Scripture
  - Committed community
  - Holy Spirit
  
6. How is the fight against sexual temptation a gospel fight?
  - Here we want people to acknowledge that behavior modification (porn filters, accountability etc) will not ultimately solve the problem. Only when your love for Jesus is greater than your love for sex will you be able to find victory over sexual temptation.
  
7. What step is God calling you to take as a result of this passage?

## PRAYER

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

**LEADER NOTES:** *The following is designed simply as an outline for you to use in your group prayer time. Feel free to make this your own and adjust it to fit your group.*

1. We must be a people of confession and repentance. Pray that we will see the value of confession in our own walk (2 Chronicles 7:14).
2. Pray for purity in the midst of sexual temptation (Ephesians 5:3).
3. Pray that God will use us to bless the city of Charlotte and glorify Him.