**Joseph’s Example During Temptation**

Genesis 39 records how Potiphar’s wife sought to go to bed with Joseph. However, he resisted rather than rationalized the situation. He could have excused his behavior in a variety of ways:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Why he “should have” succumbed to her*** | ***Why he didn’t succumb to her*** |
|  |  |
| Bitterness: “What has God done for me?” | Spiritual: “This would sin against God” |
| Youth: “Hey, I have these desires!” | Intellectual: “Why be an idiot?” |
| Freedom: “I can do it if I want” | Exclusivity: “*You* are his wife!” |
| Vanity: “I can gain even more power” | History: “Why repeat sex sin of Dad & Grandpa?” |
| Pleasure: “What else are hormones for?” | Thankfulness: “My master gave me so much!” |
| Exhaustion: “I’m sick of resisting her!” | Testimony: “People are watching me” |
| Isolation: “No one will find out” | Future: “Why ruin my dreams?” |
| Entitlement: “I deserve this” | Theology: “God promised the Land” (Gen 15:13) |
| Rationalization: “God is finally blessing me!” | Destiny: “God has my trials for good” (Gen 50:20) |
| Sin Nature: “This is what people just do” |  |

# Discussion (after writing answers to these first on your own)

## When are you most vulnerable to temptation?

### What are you doing at the time you fall to temptation?

### How do you let your guard down when you’re tired?

### What lies do you believe when you sin?

## What strategies best help you resist temptation?

### What “places” do you refuse to go?

### How do you protect your computer use?

### To whom are you accountable? How?

### What one thing should you do differently as a result of this study?

**Joseph as a Type of Christ**

Joseph serves as a picture of Jesus Christ in several ways:

1. Both were taken to Egypt to save God’s people
2. Both ministered cross-culturally in an alien land without family close by
3. Both had closest friends or family betray them
4. Both forgave those who harmed them but it was rejected
5. Both wounded their fathers through their suffering
6. Both achieved their high position because of proper response to trials
7. Both rose out of a hole in the ground
8. Both finished well without giving up their vision
9. Both saved both Jews and Gentiles
10. Both lived with future generations in view
11. Both left assignments to those left behind
12. Both became second in command at their master’s right hand
13. Both had mundane robes replaced with royal robes