



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 2—Genesis Part 2*

*Lesson 4: Joseph and Potiphar's Deceiving Wife—Genesis 39*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 39 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*

*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*

*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*How does God work through Joseph to be a blessing?*

- Eventually, God puts Joseph in a position to not only experience a reunion with his family but also care for the people of Egypt, who were experiencing a tremendous drought and food shortage.
- God uses Joseph even in unwanted and unplanned circumstances to carry out God's will for the world. Joseph is living in the shoes of his great grandfather Abraham quite well.

#### **OUR STORY**

*Why is the writer of Genesis telling this story?*

- The writer wants the Israelites to remember that even in their most difficult times, God blesses.
- God's blessing is not tied to success. Success is not a theological category. God's blessing, however, is tied to God's faithfulness, which is why it is always present.

## OTHERS' STORY

*How do you think God was with Joseph, even while he was in prison? (v. 21)*

## THE WORLD'S STORY

*Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and eventually falsely accused of a crime and ended up in prison. Yet, Joseph stayed true to God. What does this tell us about Joseph? What does this tell us about God?*

*Joseph could have had feelings of envy, but instead chose to have a godly attitude. What is envy and why is it so destructive?*

- Envy can be greed, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, spite and in the end an insatiable desire to want what is found in another.
- In the case of Joseph and his brothers, envy is what leads them to at first want to kill Joseph but settle on throwing him in a dried out cistern, selling him to others as a slave and then claiming he is dead to their father. Envy makes people do crazy things.

*In what ways can we combat envy?*

1. Remember that envy is a sin.
2. Remember you are God's creation.
3. Come clean with who you really are.
4. Be generous.
5. Celebrate others.
6. Remember you can only control your own circumstances.
7. God is your audience, no one else.

## PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*O God of peace and justice, we place at your feet those whose memory we treasure, and those people and names that we will never know. Teach us to lift our eyes above the suffering and agony of this broken world, and give us the grace and mercy to pray for those who wish us harm. As we remember the days gone by, may we place our faith in Your imminence; for You and You alone are the source of presence and ongoing both hope, now and forever. In Your precious Son's name, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.*

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

In your lesson today there were seven ways to help move past envy. Choose three of the ways from the list and choose how you will live them out before your group gathers again. As you practice three of these helpful ways, take time to journal your experience and come ready to discuss these with your group.

- Remember that envy is a sin.
- Remember you are God's creation.
- Come clean with whom you really are.
- Be generous.
- Celebrate others.
- Remember you can only control your own circumstances.
- God is your audience, no one else.

## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

*Proverbs 14:30*

*James 3:14-16*

*I Peter 2:1-2*

*Isaiah 26:11*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 39, consider the following questions:

*How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 39?*

*How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 39?*

*What is God saying to you through these passages?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 39 and read them this week, journaling as you go.