

# *Great Women of the Bible*



For our Bible characters, leaving a *legacy* behind from which Christians can learn and benefit from is part of what makes them *Great*.

*The person was a “God-send”.*

*Have you ever had a person come into your life who you feel was a God-send? What was it about their impact on your life that made you feel they were sent by God?*

*Have you ever had a person  
come into your life who you feel  
was **not sent by God, but was**  
**sent** to disrupt your life, to cause  
you trouble, to challenge you, or  
to test you?*

*Stiff warnings about the  
danger of **adultery...***

Proverbs 5: 1-14

Proverbs 6: 20-29

*Let us meet our next Great Woman of the Bible...*  
**Potiphar's Wife**



# Background on Joseph

- The man Joseph who appears in the Book of Genesis is not to be confused with Joseph the father of Christ. They are two different people.
- Joseph was a righteous man. He was special. He had a gift of prophecy and dreaming and his brothers were jealous.
- Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and he was bought by a man named Potiphar.
- Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's key men. He had power and influence because of his close relationship with Pharaoh.

# Genesis 39: 1-5

*Joseph dealt with unfortunate events of being sold into slavery, yet, the Lord made sure that in his bad situation that Joseph was blessed. Potiphar could see that Joseph was a Godly man and he respected him.*

***Life Lesson: Even in your bad situation, if you are a good person, God can bless you...***



## Genesis 39: 6-7

*What is going on with Potiphar's wife? Try to get inside her head... Why is she behaving this way? **Joseph's relationship with Potiphar and God is being challenged by Potiphar's wife...***

## *What's Going on with Potiphar's Wife?*

- She is lonely
- She feels neglected
- Her husband is too important and too busy for her
- She has unfulfilled needs
- As an important woman, she is just used to getting what she wants
- Maybe she has deep issues from her past
- She could be just a negative person that is up to no good

# Genesis 39: 8-12

*Joseph refuses Potiphar's wife and her sexual advances. He doesn't stay around for long. In fact, Joseph **runs away** from the situation. Do you feel that most men would have reacted this way? Why or why not? What messages reside in this passage for men of God?*

*Potiphar's Wife was sent to  
challenge Joseph's relationship  
with God...and Joseph passes  
the test...*

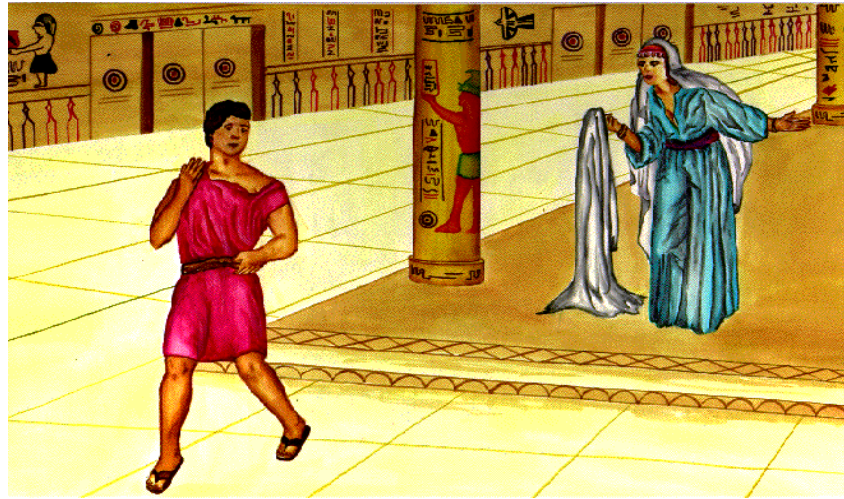
*Men of God—it is possible for us to have exhibit **self-control** in terms of avoiding sinful, sexual situations...*

# Joseph Exhibits **Self-Control**

- Joseph exhibits loyalty and respect for Potiphar
- Joseph appreciates Potiphar's kindness and wants to do right by Him
  - Have you ever been especially kind to someone, only to have them betray you? What does that feel like?
- Most of all Joseph wants to do right by God
- **Question for Thought—Could Potiphar's wife be jealous of Joseph? *After all, "no one in the house is greater than Joseph".***

# Characteristics of Sin

- Potiphar's wife represents **SIN**. From her we learn some characteristics of sin...
  - She has **no conscience**
  - She is **persistent**
  - She **schemes and waits for the right time to attack**
  - She is **aggressive**
  - **SIN has these same attributes and often attacks people who are trying to live right.**



*What have we learned about Joseph thus far?*

*What aspects of his character should we adopt for ourselves?*

# Genesis 39: 13-18

*Now that you know her, describe the moral character of Potiphar's Wife...*

*Do you know anyone like her?*

***What should Christians do in terms of dealing with people with poor moral character?***

# Genesis 39: 19-21

- Potiphar feels betrayed, made a fool of, taken advantage of, hurt, disappointed and angry
- Joseph was punished...and all he did was to do the right thing. He did the right thing and trouble still came his way. *What do you think is going through his mind?*
- **The Lord didn't prevent the storm, but the Lord was with Joseph through the storm.** Despite his difficult circumstances, Joseph still had success.

**Question for Thought: Have you ever done the right thing and still endured difficulty as a result of your actions? How did you handle it emotionally? Did you regret doing the right thing or did you stand firm in your position?**

*What do we learn from Potiphar's wife? What lessons does she leave behind for Christians?*

**What have you learned about adultery, moral character, self-control, loyalty, trust, sin, favor and suffering as a Christian?**