

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for April 9, 2017

Title: “Slaying the Dragons of Despair and Lust” – Genesis 39

Children:

1. Is it ever difficult for you to obey? What about when you don't understand WHY your parents want you to do something? Are you able to trust them and obey even when you don't understand?
2. In KidsConnect we have been learning how Jesus obeyed His Father and came to earth to die on the Cross to save people from their sins. Do you think it was easy for Him to do that? Why do you think He was able to obey His Father even when His job was so difficult? (*love for His father, love for people, looking ahead at the joy that would come in the future-Hebrews 12:2...*)
3. What do you do when you are tempted to do something that you know you shouldn't? (*some ideas: say, “NO” right away, walk away from the thing that is tempting you, think about the consequences of making a wrong choice, pray for God to help you do the right thing, go to a parent or other trusted adult and tell them you need help doing the right thing*)

Miscellaneous:

KidsConnect preschool is looking for someone with a loving heart who wants to help kids get to know Jesus to teach 4-year-olds every other week during the 10:45 service. If you've never taught preschoolers before, we can train you! If interested, please email Jennifer Moore, preschool director, at jennifer@crossroads-summerville.org. Thanks!

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

This lesson follows a format different from our usual Connect Group study. Instead of responding to discussion questions, have your members follow the sermon outline (below), and discuss point-by-point Joseph's responses to the circumstances and temptations he faced. Discussions may include personal experiences with depression and despair, or the dangers of succumbing to lust.

You may choose to introduce your group to stories of Bible characters who failed to slay the dragon of despair or lust. For example, Elijah's despair and subsequent depression—1 Kings 19:1-18; King David's lust for Bathsheba—2 Samuel 11:1-27.

Also: Pastor Peppy would like feedback from Connect Group members about the topic of this lesson: Slaying the Dragons of Despair and Lust. Ask your members if there is a need, personally or in the church, for breakout sessions where men with men, and women with women can share and support each other in the fight to slay their individual dragons of despair and lust.

Dragon #1: Joseph had to slay the dragon of despair. How?

—Joseph decided to trust in God despite his circumstances.

Read from Genesis 39

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

—Joseph decided to serve faithfully despite his circumstances.

The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

Dragon #2: Joseph had to slay the dragon of lust. How?

From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all

that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

—Joseph refused immediately.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused...

—Joseph counted the cost realistically.

...and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

—Joseph resisted the pressure consistently.

And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

—Joseph avoided the tempting situation unashamedly.

And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

—Joseph fled the trap decisively.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and ^yput him into the ^zprison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. But ^athe LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love ^band gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.