

Temptation
Next Steps
May 24, 2020
Genesis 39:1-11

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy and merciful God where we are weak, come to our aid and empower us with courage and faith. Where we are blind to our own foibles, clarify our vision and expose our sense of self-importance. Where we are insensitive to the pain and fate of others, pierce us with compassion. Where we are corrupted by willfulness and selfishness, convict and confront us. Thank you for your Scripture which prompts us to repentance and for your Spirit which strengthens us for obedience. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the sermon this week?
- What food can't you resist?
- What is your biggest temptation? (food, alcohol, video games etc.)

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Joseph faces a difficult decision and finds himself in a bad situation. Read Genesis 39:1-23.

- What strikes you most about this passage?
- What feelings do you think Joseph might have towards God and his dreams? When have you felt like Joseph and what helped you to walk through that?
- What does Joseph's example of resisting temptation teach you?
- What helps you to live your faith and follow Jesus?
- Read Romans 8:28-29. How does this scripture fit with the Joseph story? Have you ever experienced this in your life?

Continue reading the Joseph story. Read Genesis 40.

- What do you hear in this passage?
- What do you make of Joseph's response about God?
- What strikes you most about the two dreams, their interpretation and fulfillment?
- Where in your life are you feeling imprisoned? What is your prayer for release?
 - What do you sense is God's answer to those prayers?
- When you are in difficult situations, what helps you get through? What can you learn from Joseph?

NEXT STEPS:

- When you consider your biggest temptation, what can you do in the next 30 days to fight that struggle?
- Spend 5 minutes in prayer each day, putting your biggest challenges into God's hands.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

New every morning is the love our wakening and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life, and power, and thought.
New mercies, each returning day, hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven, new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.
The trivial round, the common task, will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road to bring us daily nearer to God.
-The Iona Community Worship Book