

LIVING THE DREAM

Drop Your Coat | Discussion Notes

This week we're looking at the times in life when we are tested and how they can threaten the dreams we have for the future. Do you think that if God gives you a dream it can be derailed or destroyed?

Read Genesis 39. Before this story we see Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers and now he faces another test from Potiphar's wife.

- What can we learn about times of testing from this passage?
- What can we learn from Joseph's character about how to respond to things that might challenge or derail our dreams?

Philip said that there are 3 reasons why testing is so challenging that we see laid out in this passage:

1. It is **PERVASIVE** - it's everywhere, whether that is office culture, flat mates, in films we watch or just society around us.
2. It is **PERSISTENT** - it's everyday. We can't have a 'day off' from being tested, for example we might be triggered by things all around us.
3. It is **PRIVATE** - nobody has to see and there feels like there is no consequences for your actions.

Take some time to do the activity together, using this as a chance to get talking about the challenges we face without anyone having to specifically talk about it if they don't want to. Stress the importance of understanding why it is that testing is so challenging for us.

In verses 8 and 9, Joseph overcomes this test by **MAKING IT PERSONAL**. He talks about the trust of his master and how sleeping with Potiphar's wife would impact his master. Philip explained that a key to overcoming temptation and testing is to make it personal, to think about those affected by our actions. Ultimately Joseph makes it about his personal relationship with God, not wanting to jeopardise that.

- What examples can you think of where you can 'make it personal'? (i.e. those effected by slavery when buying chocolate or those impacted by your gossiping)
- What difference does it make when we make it personal?
- Philip said 'sin always has consequences, even when we can't see them'. Do you agree?

Finally, Philip said that for each reason why we might struggle, there is an antidote.

- **PERVASIVE** - seek **community** that can surround you with a healthy culture
- **PERSISTENT** - seek **consistency** in your devotional life
- **PRIVATE** - seek **accountability**

To finish, head into breakout rooms and discuss which of these we're going to prioritise and how. Then pray for each other.