

## Scripture Reading

### Genesis 37:1–4 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. <sup>2</sup> This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. <sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

### 1) The descent into adversity

### Genesis 37:5–9 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." <sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. <sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

### Genesis 37:19–27 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. <sup>20</sup> "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." <sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. <sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—<sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

Genesis 39:1–4 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. <sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup> Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

## 2) Integrity in the face of temptation

Genesis 39:6–10 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, <sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" <sup>8</sup> But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup> And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

## 3) Dealing with temptation

### a) power

Matthew 23:11–12 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> The greatest among you will be your servant. <sup>12</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

### b) sexual

Psalms 63:1–5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. <sup>5</sup> I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

c) despair

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.