

May Youth Bible Study Synopsis

Topic: "Joseph: A role model for the youth" (Genesis 39) Place: Roshni & Asha's house (Yonkers, NY) Date: Friday, May 20, 2005 Time: 7:00pm
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The May Youth Bible study was held on Friday, May 20, 2005, at the residence of Roshni & Asha John. The topic chosen for the Bible study was "Joseph: A role model for the youth" (Genesis 39). The Bible study started at 7:30pm. 9 youth members were present as well as Rt Rev. A George Ninan and Mr. Philip Itty. Jimmy Samuel and Tinto Thomas from Rockland CSI were also present bringing the total attendance to 11.

We started with an opening prayer led by Justin Cherian and sang 8 songs before proceeding to the Bible study. Bishop George Ninan started the Bible study by stating that the passage should come alive to us as we begin to study it. Bishop introduced an effective way of studying the Bible through the "Four P's" method. They are as follows:

- 1) Point of the Passage- Write down the point of the passage. What does the passage say? Write down whatever strikes you as most important.
- 2) Problems found in the Passage- Identify any problems you see in the passage (a) something you don't understand personally or felt confusing and (b) any possible problems, for others or in communicating to others.
- 3) Parallel Passage- Write down any parallel passages that come to mind or anything you feel is related to the story. What other passage came to mind as you read this one?"
- 4) Personal Applications- What thought appealed to you and what you intend to do about it. What did you learn and is that going to make any difference in your life? How does the passage speak to me?

Bishop stated that any one can lead a study like this by having the leader give a brief introduction to the passage. Bishop began the study by saying that Joseph played an important role in the life of Israel. In this passage, Joseph encounters Potiphar's wife. We used the method of the four p's on this passage by finding out the Point of the Passage. Jimmy stated that in this passage, we find God is still with Joseph. Bishop led us to look at the previous life of Joseph to fully understand this passage. In Genesis 37:3 we find Joseph as sort of spoiled compared to the treatment that his father gave his brothers. Joseph was a dreamer and there was jealousy among the siblings. When Joseph went away from his father, the other brothers got him.

We looked at Joseph's performance and read that he went to Egypt and started from the bottom and went up. Joseph became a favorite of Pharaoh (Joseph used every opportunity for something). Joseph was wise and prudent and had his eyes fixed on God. This passage speaks to us even in 2005 and that's why he is a role model to the youth.

Moving on, we looked at the problems found in the passage. Ajo stated that one problem he had was that Potiphar believed his wife more than Joseph when she accused him. Joseph was Potiphar's favorite and couldn't understand why he wouldn't consider Joseph's side of the story. A major problem we see is that "If God is in charge of everything, why is there so much chaos in this world?" Why should Joseph go through all this?

We moved on by looking at some parallel passages. Ajo let us know that one parallel passage that came to mind was "The Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness" found in Matthew 4:1-11. Bishop referred everyone to 1st Corinthians 10:13 -"*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*"(NKJV). Another passage that came to mind was the passage of the tongues found in James 3: 9-10.

Finally, we ended with the Personal Application part of the “Four P’s” method. We looked into whether there was a certain amount of arrogance in Joseph in that passage. Sometimes we become a little too self-righteous. We see that Joseph had the same trait as his brothers. Bishop let us know that when we write things down especially the personal application part of this method, you can see a few things later as you look back at what you wrote. We concluded the study by reading 1st Corinthians 10:13 together.

We then proceeded to the prayer requests as Justin asked for prayer requests and since it was a small group, everyone prayed with Bishop saying the concluding prayer and benediction. The prayer requests were:

- Asha: Pray for Deepthy & Renju as they prepare to get married in India on May 30th
- Justin: Pray for Bishop George Ninan & Kochamma and their children
- Jimmy: Pray for Paulose Achen and Kochamma as they settle back in India
- Justin: Pray for both Hudson Valley and Rockland and their activities this year.
- Ajo: Pray that HV gets an Achen soon
- Philips: Pray for the missing children and their family in Pelham

The Bible study ended at 9:05pm. Afterwards, Justin thanked all those who came and to Bishop for taking time out of his busy schedule and leading the study on Joseph. Dinner was served by the host family.

For his Glory,

Justin Cherian
Youth Secretary