

1 – Focusing on God more than family pain – Step Family, Favoritism, Sibling Rivalry

Genesis 37:3 Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. 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. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

2 – Focusing on God more than being thrown into a pit

Genesis 37:23-28 When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the richly ornamented robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it... Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites..." His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

God is greater than the people who walked out on you or walked over you.

Don't focus on the one who hurt your heart but on the One who can heal your heart!

Lamentations 3:55 But I called on your name, LORD, from deep within the pit.

When you hit rock bottom, you will discover the ROCK!

3 – Focusing on God more than a paycheck

Genesis 39:3-5 When his master [Potiphar] saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 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... The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had. **Eph 6:6-8** Try to please them [employers/masters] all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

4 – Focusing on God more than impure or inappropriate pursuits

Gen 39:6,9-10 Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused..."How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. **2 Tim 2:22** Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

5 – Focusing on God more than sexual pleasure

Gen 39:11-12 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

People sin (fall short of God's best) when they believe a lie instead of embracing the Truth.

Table Discussion Questions for this week:

1. (Everyone) Share your name, type of work you do, and is there is a box in the bingo list that describes you. You can write your personal name in for “1” of the boxes (all the other boxes have to be filled with a name of someone from another table).

2-3 help answer each question:

2. How many siblings did you have growing up (what # are you in the line up?) and what one or two words might best describes the dynamics in your family?
3. What was something in Joseph’s story that related to your own life story?
4. What did you learn about human nature based on some of the people in Joseph’s story?
5. What was something that you heard tonight that can be helpful in your single life?
6. Have you experienced something bad in your life that God ultimately used to draw you closer to him? What was it?
7. How does Joseph story bring you hope?

TIPS for TABLE DISCUSSIONS

If you don’t have a table host, have someone volunteer who has led Bible study or small groups in the past.

1. **EVERYONE** should contribute during the discussion time.
2. **Smile and be friendly.**
3. **Be gracious and give grace to one another.**
4. **Keep the discussion moving, don’t get too sidetracked.**
5. **Be kind to anyone that may be hurting, but still go through the questions.**

HUMAN BINGO – During this mixer you must meet people from other tables & write in their name. (no filling out information before the mixer starts, but you can use this for “meal conversation” around your table.)

Lived in another country 3+ yrs (where?) _____	Likes to go on hikes? _____	Has climbed at least 3 14teeners? _____	Been to the Grand Canyon? _____	Has visited India’s Taj Mahal? _____
Is going to the Rockies game on 4/28? _____	Is a monthly sponsor for a child (where?) _____	3 friends came to TUES cuz of their invitation? _____	Served in the military? _____	Owns a convertible or soft top vehicle? _____
Speaks another language fluently (what?) _____	Owns a dog (what kind?) _____	1st time attending _____	Sings in a choir or worship team? _____	Has a masters or doctorate degree? _____
Went hunting or fishing in past 12 months? _____	Been to Red Rocks concert (who)? _____	Been on an overseas missions trip (where)? _____	Owns a cat (name)? _____	Teaches a SS class (ages)? _____
Read their Bible the last 30 days? _____	Rode a horse in 2012? _____	Loves to cook? _____	Has an adopted child? _____	Owns a Motorcycle? _____

God's WORD for Single & Single-Again Christians about Sex When Dating

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. 2 Cor 10:5

The world, your flesh, the devil (and some "friends") may say...	But God's WORDS, will, wisdom, warnings, and ways tells us...
I couldn't help myself, she/he wanted me.	<i>Run from sexual sin! 1 Cor 6:18 He left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. Gen 39:12</i>
The temptation is too strong.	<i>God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure. 1 Cor 10:13</i>
Everyone's doing it.	<i>Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. Ex 23:2</i>
I have needs.	<i>If we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. 1 Tim 6:8</i>
You're living in the dark ages.	<i>If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. 1 Jn 1:7</i>
I'm used to having sex, I can't stop.	<i>It is God's will that you keep away from sexual sin as a mark of your devotion to him. 1 Thess 4:3</i>
It's my body, I'll do what I want with it.	<i>God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Cor 6:20</i>
You're old-fashioned & out-of-date.	<i>The LORD says, "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16</i>
No one will ever know.	<i>The day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life. Romans 2:16 The LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. Prov 5:21</i>
I have to give in or I'll lose them.	<i>You are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin. 1 Cor 5:11</i>
We're not hurting anyone.	<i>People who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. 1 Cor 6:18</i>
What's wrong with pornography?	<i>Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. Ps 119:37</i>
I know what I'm doing.	<i>[The immoral woman] cares nothing about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't realize it. Prov 5:6</i>
No one is going to tell me how to live my life.	<i>You will lie groaning on your deathbed...and you will say, Why would I never learn? Why would I never let anyone correct me? I wouldn't listen to my teachers. Prov 5:11</i>
I have to have sex.	<i>If they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 1 Cor 7:9</i>
I am doing nothing wrong.	<i>An adulterous woman consumes a man, then wipes her mouth and says, "What's wrong with that?" Prov 30:20</i>

For PRACTICAL IDEAS on how to have healthy Christian relationships, go to:
www.ChristianSinglesInDenver.com

- *Friends with Boundaries (NOT Benefits): 9 Phases of Healthy Christ-Centered Male and Female Relationships* – Video and Handout by Brian Kluth. Plus there are additional videos & handouts by Brian.
- You can also access other teaching series on this site by Brian Kluth, Jane Stolz, Andy Stanley, and Tommy Nelson