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That's Going Too Far

Key References: Genesis 39:1-20; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 20, pp. 213-218; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 51-56; Our Beliefs, nos. 21, 22, 8













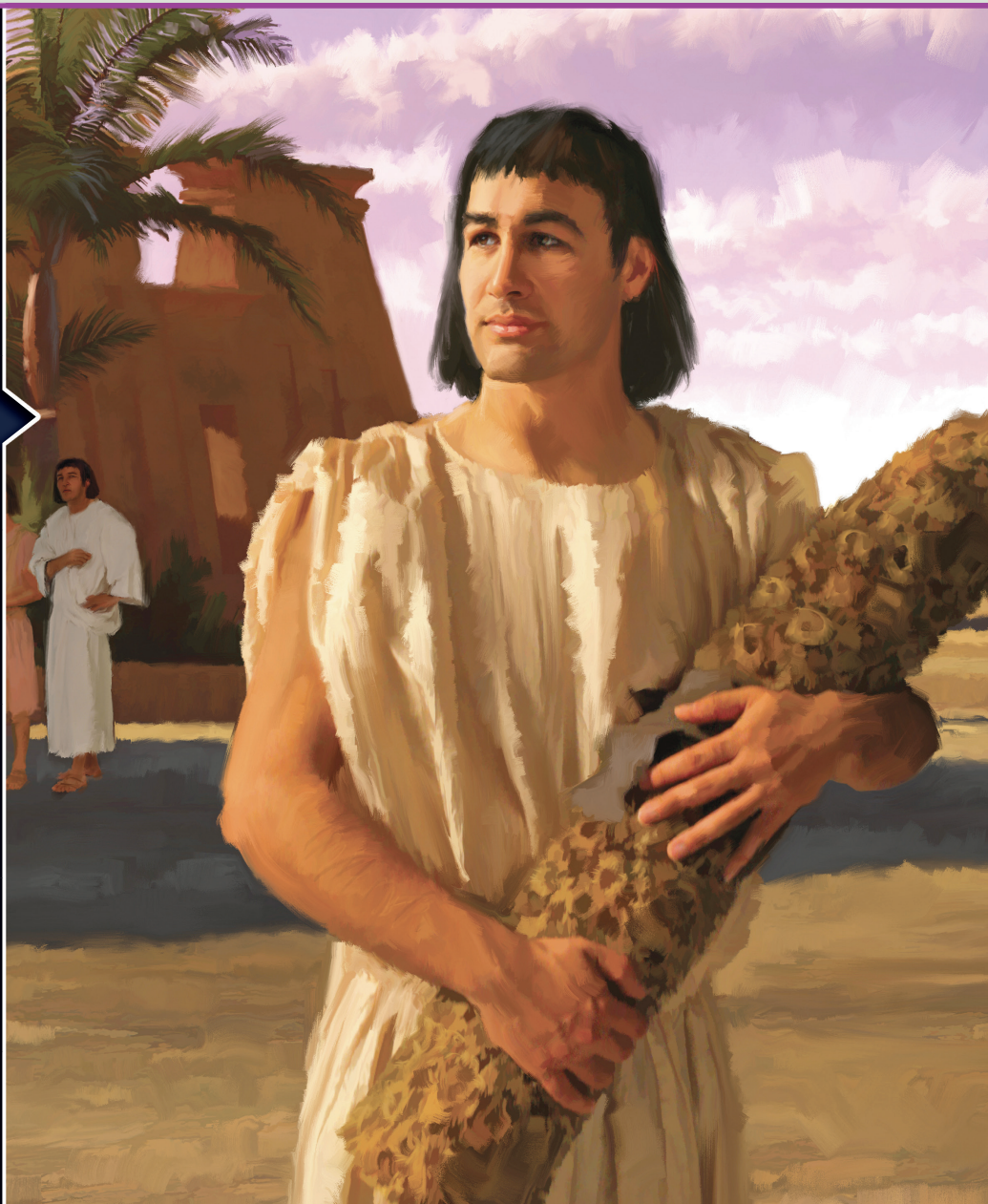

power**text**

"'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these'" (Mark 12:29-31).

power**point**

Honoring boundaries is one way we treat one another with respect.

Have you ever been going along, minding your own business, trying to be accepted, getting your work done, and keeping out of trouble, when someone started bothering you and asking you to do something you knew was wrong? Did it almost seem easier to go along just to keep peace? Or maybe you refused and then got accused of doing it anyway.

A tall, handsome man in his late 20s strode briskly toward Potiphar's main house. He was well built, with muscles that were accustomed to being active. He walked proudly, as if he were in charge of everything around him.

Actually Joseph had been a slave in Potiphar's household for 10 hard years now. At first he had been just one of the many slaves who worked in the extremely rich and complicated household. But Potiphar had kept promoting him, until now he was in charge of everything in his household.

Joseph stepped from the bright Egyptian sun onto the hand-woven rugs of the cool interior of the main house. He was well acquainted with all three stories with their polished, hand-carved furniture. He knew every plant on each of the beautiful garden balconies. He knew how many slaves it took to cook a luscious dinner and serve it on golden tableware with a background of live musical entertainment.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 60.

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Sunday

READ Mark 12:29-31 and this week's story, "That's Going Too Far."

DRAW Draw a traffic sign. Write your power text, Mark 12:29-31, on it and post it in your room.

LEARN Begin to learn the text.

PRAY Praise God for the commandments of love He has given us.

Monday

REVIEW Review this week's story in Genesis 39:1-20.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list or draw as many traffic signs as you can remember.

WRITE Beside each one tell what it protects a driver from, or how it respects another driver.

PRAY Thank God for His directions about treating one another with love.

Tuesday

READ Read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17.

DRAW At the top of a piece of paper, draw one big sign and write "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind" in the middle of it. Then draw six smaller signs under it and in each one write your version of one of the following verses: Exodus 20:12-17.

WRITE Beside each sign, list how that commandment helps a person respect other people.

PRAY Thank God for His law that helps us respect others.

Joseph was hardworking and loyal, but beyond that, God seemed to bless everything he touched. Potiphar had long ago recognized Joseph's special talents. Joseph had a chance to meet important government officials and educated men of science. He felt more like a son than a slave.

But all of that was about to change.

As Joseph stepped into the family quarters on the second floor, where he had an errand, Potiphar's wife approached him as she often had done before. Joseph had hoped she was out for the day.

"Joseph, where are you going so fast?" For some time now Potiphar's wife had been trying to get close to Joseph. Joseph knew that he had better leave the house immediately.

"Madam, I think I'd better go now." Joseph quickly grabbed what he had come for and turned to leave, but the mistress of the house beat him to the door.

"Joseph, stay here with me for a while. Who is going to know about us? There's no one here but you and me." By now she had moved very close to Joseph.

"Madam, your husband has put me in charge of his house. He trusts me with everything in it. But you are his wife, not



one of his possessions for me to take care of. What you are asking of me would also be a sin against my God."

Joseph turned again to leave. Potiphar's wife reached for him and caught hold of his garment. "Who do you think you are?" she hissed. "You're not leaving this house." Joseph tried to get away, but she held tightly to his garment. In an instant Joseph pulled away and ran as quickly as he could to his quarters, leaving the garment in her hands.

That night Joseph wondered what would happen next. Things had gone so well for so long. He had grown from a simple foreign slave boy to the chief butler and accountant of this grand household. But he knew all of that was about to change, just as his life had changed when his brothers sold him.

Joseph heard footsteps approaching.

"Take your men and leave me with Joseph," Potiphar ordered the guards with him. Joseph had never heard that tone of voice from him. Potiphar entered Joseph's room.

"My wife tells me that you tried to seduce her." Potiphar looked into Joseph's eyes. His words were filled with pain. "She says that you tried to attack her. Is that true?"

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Wednesday

READ Read Proverbs 1:10-19.

THINK The Ten Commandments are boundaries that help us know how to love and respect one another.

DISCUSS What are the boundaries that the young person in these verses is being tempted to cross?

PRAY Ask God for wisdom to resist temptation.

Thursday

READ Read Proverbs 3:1-8.

WRITE Imagine that these verses are a letter from God to you. In your Bible study journal, write a letter back to God, responding to His request.

PRAY Read your letter aloud to God.

Friday

READ Read Psalm 119:1-16.

SHARE Ask an adult if you can share Psalm 119 in worship this evening. If possible, take turns with your family reading sections until you have read all 176 verses.

TALK Discuss what this chapter tells you about God's boundaries.

PRAY Praise God for His lovingkindness in teaching us how to respect one another.

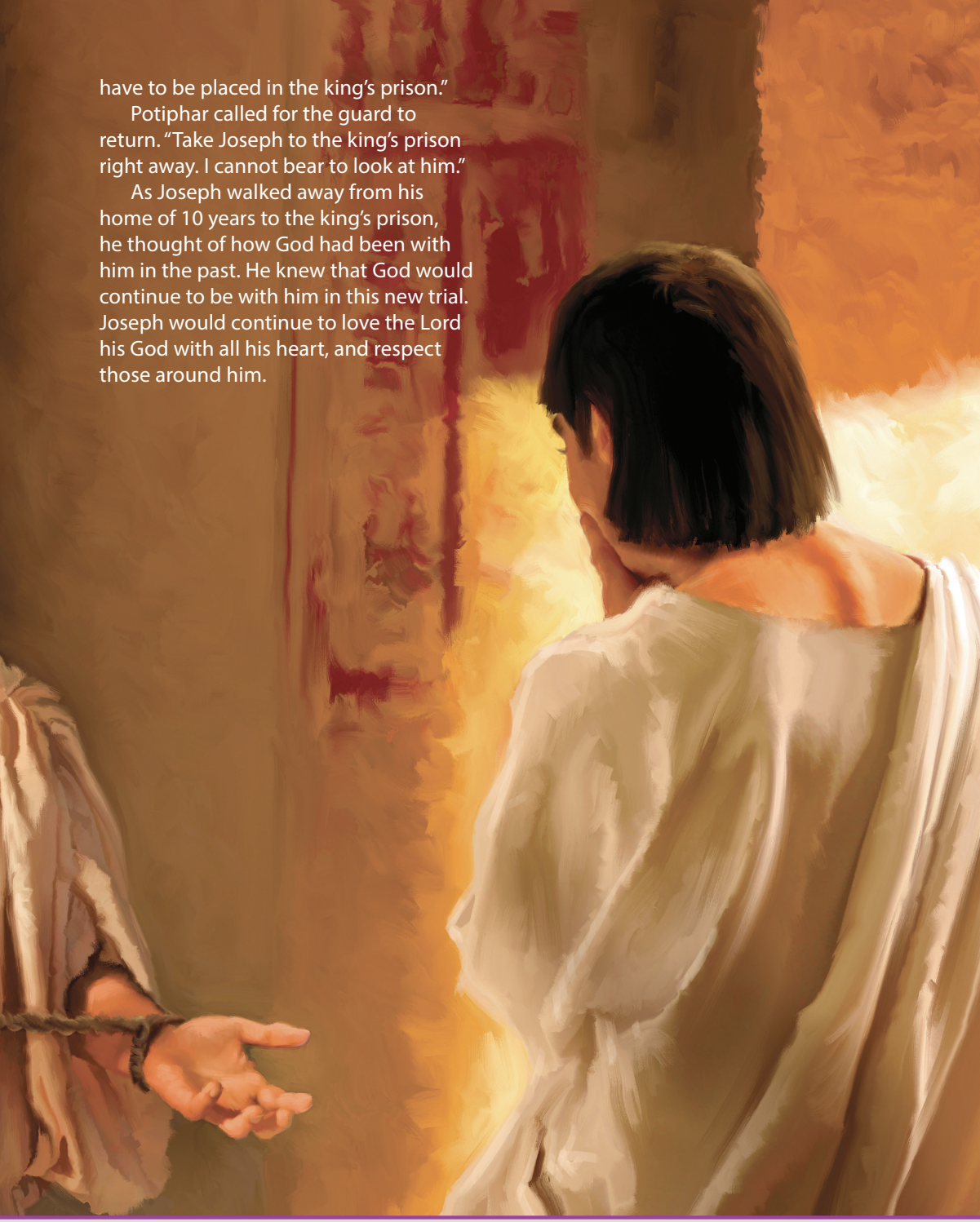
"Master, I would never do anything to bring shame upon your house, or my God."

"But she showed me your garment. She says that you left it there when you heard her scream for help."

"Master, I assure you, I would never do such a thing."

Visibly shaken, Potiphar's head sank. If Joseph was telling the truth, then his wife would appear to be a liar. Potiphar had only two choices. He must have Joseph either killed or put in prison. He thought for a moment longer, then he declared, "You will





have to be placed in the king's prison."

Potiphar called for the guard to return. "Take Joseph to the king's prison right away. I cannot bear to look at him."

As Joseph walked away from his home of 10 years to the king's prison, he thought of how God had been with him in the past. He knew that God would continue to be with him in this new trial. Joseph would continue to love the Lord his God with all his heart, and respect those around him.

PUZZLE 7

BOUNDARIES

Instructions: If we make our boundaries what God wants them to be, we will live within His will. Find out what Jesus tells us are His boundaries by crossing out all the words in the table that:

1. begin with the letter "S"
2. rhyme with "boat"
3. are proper names
4. are things we can drink
5. are fruits
6. are clothing
7. are animals

The leftover words are the Bible verse.

Christ	anyone	grapes	camel
note	Jesus	who	loves
wrote	me	Son	God
will	water	donkey	robe
figs	saves	obey	milk
my	veil	teaching	lamb