

WHICH WAY OUT

ESCAPING DYSFUNCTION

Every test that you've experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out. **1 Corinthians 10:13** (GNT)

THREE INESCAPABLE TRUTHS ABOUT SITUATIONS THAT TEST AND TRAP US:

1. THEY ARE _____.

2. GOD IS _____.

- He will use it to _____.

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. **James 1:2-4** (NLT)

- He will provide a _____ of it.

3. MY _____ IS ESSENTIAL TO MY _____.

JOSEPH'S WAY OUT OF DYSFUNCTION...

1. _____.

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever.⁶ "Listen to this dream," he said. ⁷ "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" ⁸ His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. ⁹ Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" ¹⁰ This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" **Genesis 37:4-10** (NLT)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on

me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:10**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. **Romans 12:1-2**

2. _____.

Joseph was well-built and good-looking, ⁷ and his master's wife began to desire Joseph and asked him to go to bed with her. ⁸ He refused and said to her, "Look, my master does not have to concern himself with anything in the house, because I am here. He has put me in charge of everything he has. ⁹ I have as much authority in this house as he has, and he has not kept back anything from me except you. How then could I do such an immoral thing and sin against God?" **Genesis 39:6-10** (GNB)

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. **Proverbs 16:3**

Whether we live or die we make it our life's passion to live our lives pleasing to him. **2 Corinthians 5:9**

3. _____.

Joseph had to deal with the memories of...

- A father who favored him.
- Brothers who enslaved him.
- A lying woman who framed him.
- A boss who imprisoned him.
- A cellmate (who he served) who forgot him.

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. **Genesis 50:20, 21** (NIV)

Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others...³² Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)

Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you...for it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives. **Hebrews 12:15** (TLB)