



Vision Tests – Message 3

Announcements

Summer Small Group Plans // This week you will receive an email with a survey asking about your group plans for the summer semester (June 3-August 11). Please take a moment to complete the short survey whether your group will meet this summer or not. Visit cotkleaders.com for recommended curriculum.

Warm-up

If you could live anywhere in the world where would you live and who would you bring with you? Tell the group the reason for your choice.

Word and Application

Vision is not just where God wants to lead you, but also what you are becoming in the process. Vision is a *destination* and a *process*. Today we will focus on how to overcome the various diversions, setbacks, and tests that come our way and how we can pass the tests that challenge the vision we've been given. You have both a choice and a responsibility in the process.

Read Philippians 3:13-14 & 2 Timothy 4:7. What truths do you find in these scriptures that can help you stay on track with the vision God has for you?

God had a purpose for Joseph to become a ruler one day. But remember even though God gave Joseph a dream and a vision for his future, it was Joseph's responsibility to move towards his destiny to see his dream fulfilled. **Read Genesis 37:5-9.** What would your life look like in 10 years if you made the choice to take action to move towards the vision God has for your life?

Let's go a little deeper with some practical steps to hold fast and remain faithful to this vision God has for us. For each vision test, there will be a Question, Answer Key, and a Study Guide.

Four Vision Tests:

1. The Pit Test

Read Genesis 37:18-24. Describe the tension that was between Joseph and his brothers. Recall a time where you have experienced similar tension. Share with the group how you dealt with this test.

- **Question:** When you are betrayed or wronged – *Will you lock up or look up?* Will you accuse God of not fulfilling what He said and stop trusting Him or others? Or will you look

up and trust that He is completing all that He has begun in you?

- **Answer Key:** Trust that God is faithful, trustworthy, and He will finish all He has promised and put in our hearts for our future.
- **Study Guide: Read Philippians 1:6.** What do you need to change so that you are able to pass the pit test?

2. The Promotion Test

Read Genesis 39:1-6. Despite the unthinkable pain he went through, he stayed faithful to the vision God gave him. God's supernatural favor was with Joseph in all that he did. Often many people are destroyed more by promotion than by adversity. Living a life of gratitude keeps us humble in a promotion.

- **Question:** When God prospers you how are you going to respond?
- **Answer Key:** Joseph did not become proud and arrogant as God began to exalt him. There was no spirit of entitlement. He remained humble in his position of prominence.
- **Study Guide: Read 1 Peter 5:6.** What are some practical ways to stay humble? How can we avoid false humility?

3. The Pardon Test

Read Genesis 45:1-5a. As we move closer to our God-given destiny, there is a reaction from those closest to us. We will need to learn how to forgive and how not to react.

- **Question:** Will you forgive those who have wronged you?
- **Answer Key:** Remember to forgive, release, and bless those who have hurt and abandoned you.
- **Study Guide: Read Colossians 3:12-13.** Think of someone who you need to forgive (maybe you need to forgive yourself). You may want to share with an accountability partner, a trustworthy friend, or your small group host a plan to apply forgiveness.

4. The Perseverance Test

God had the picture and the plan. Joseph for years had a vision of his brothers bowing down to him, but it had not become a reality. Joseph persevered, but how many people give up on their dream?

Read Genesis 45:7-8. What would you suggest to a friend who is thinking about giving up on their dream when they don't see it taking place in their current season?

- **Question:** Will you give up on your God-given dream?
- **Answer Key:** Joseph did not give up on God's dream for his life no matter what.
- **Study Guide: Read Hebrews 10:35-36.** Describe to the group how your life would be forever changed if you were able to pass all of these tests.

Life Challenge

How has this discussion challenged old habits? What new habits will you work to form?
What is God speaking to me? Who can I invite to church next weekend?

Prayer

Thank the Lord that the vision He has given to you and the people to support you on this journey. Ask the Lord to remind you how to pass daily tests. Pray for the specific needs of the group.