



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.  
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

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Judah, Joseph's brother, finds himself in several questionable situations. Many of these result from his decisions and actions. He seems powerless against his own temptations. This reveals the common belief that knowing what's best and doing it are two drastically different things.

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

Read Genesis 38

1. What decisions does Judah make that sets him up for failure?
2. Looking at Judah's actions in Genesis 37:26-27 and Genesis 38, what is Judah's ultimate concern? How does he evaluate his decisions?
3. In Genesis 49:8-12, Judah is blessed with the promise of greatness, leadership and even kingship. He was destined for greatness. However, he would often be his own worst enemy. What role do your decisions have in sabotaging your dreams? How does the Bible impact your process of decision making?
4. Describe a time when you knew the correct thing that needed to be done but chose not to. What was the outcome? What led to that final decision?

Read James 1:12-16

5. What expectation does this passage have for those who claim to follow Jesus (James 1:22-25; cf. 1 John 1:5-2:6)? What reward is given to those who endure through temptation?
  
6. Where does temptation come from? Romans 1:20-25 describes further the temptation of man. Why do these things surface in the heart of each individual?
  
7. If there is a natural inclination to follow our desires and establish our own independence, how does someone change? What role does Jesus have in this process? (Romans 8:9-11; cf. Hebrews 2:18)
  
8. How do you stop making decisions that conflict with the dreams God has for you? Romans 10:9-13 and 12:1-2 provide two paradigm shifts that need to happen in the individual's life, what are they?
  
9. Based on Galatians 5:16-26, what dichotomy exists between the natural inclinations of humanity (the flesh) and those things established by God (the Spirit)?
  
10. How do the paradigm shifts of Romans 10:9-13 and 12:1-2 enable the transformation identified in Galatians 5:16-26?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

Judah gave into the pressures of temptation. Those things that felt good but weren't in his best interest or to God's honor. These stood in the way of reaching his greatest potential. Based on what you know of God, what pressures do you continually give into that do not honor God and stand in the way of experiencing his will?