

The Story of Yusuf in Genesis 39:11-23 and its Implications for the Attitude of Christian Youth in Facing Promiscuity

¹²³⁴⁵⁶Resna Syarlina Kikhau,²Jhilianti Bahan,³Lidia Talan,⁴Yada Y. Kake,⁵Febrianti Nenoset,⁶Neri J.R. Seran
Email: resnakikhau@gmail.com

Abstract

This article discusses the story of Yusuf in Genesis 39:11-23 and relates it to the implications for the attitudes of today's Christian youth in dealing with promiscuity. The aim of this research is. (1) what can be learned from Yusuf's steadfastness in facing the temptations of Potiphar's wife (2) why did Yusuf choose to respond to Potiphar's wife's offer by refusing, even though there were big risks he had to face. (3) how the suffering that Yusuf experienced while he was told can be a love for young Christians in facing the consequences of the right decision. facing the consequences of the right decision The result of this research is that Yusuf's leadership can be a model as a good lesson not only for individuals in leadership positions but for all those who want to improve their character.

Keywords: *the story of Yusuf, Genesis 39:11-23, Christian youth, promiscuity*

INTRODUCTION

In modern life, people tend to seek worldly pleasures, ignoring the eternal happiness that can be achieved through a relationship with God. This can be seen in the behavior of today's teenagers who are often carried away by promiscuity without thinking about the long-term consequences. Teenagers, as a curious age group, often try new things to looking for instant gratification, without considering the possible negative consequences they may have (Nurochman & Setiawan, 2019). This phenomenon causes social problems to become increasingly complex. Promiscuity is often misunderstood as unlimited freedom, where individuals think they can do anything without complying with applicable norms and values. In fact, human social interaction is a basic need that must be maintained within healthy boundaries (Datu, 2020). Lack of control over life, especially aspects of religion and faith is one of the main factors that encourages adolescents to become involved in free association (Sanjaya, 2018). Furthermore, emotional instability during adolescence further improves the situation. The true embodiment of promiscuity is the glamorous world (discotheques), which is often reported to contribute to drugs, free sex and other destructive behavior. These activities not only carry health risks such as HIV/AIDS transmission, but also have serious social consequences, including dysfunction in personal life and society. Apart from that, drunkenness, drug use and joining

gangster groups are clear examples of how promiscuity can damage the future of the younger generation.

For new Christians, maintaining a holy life is an important principle taught in the Bible. This includes protecting thoughts, words, and actions from destructive things, such as sex outside of marriage and drug addiction. Christian youth are also expected to be role models for those around them, showing a different attitude towards life that shows integrity, honesty and love (Messakh & Messakh, 2023).

The Bible strongly warns that "bad company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33). Therefore, Young Christians are advised to choose a social environment that can foster the development of their faith, by avoiding bad influences that can destroy existing habits. OK With participating in church and Christian youth community activities, they can strengthen their faith and that of others. support to face life's challenges Young Christians also have a responsibility to care for their bodies as God's bait (1 Corinthians 6:19 (Manullang et al., 2023)). Promiscuity can have detrimental consequences, both physical, emotional and spiritual

Therefore, it is important to make healthy lifestyle choices, in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Additionally, young Christians are encouraged to use their time wisely, focusing on positive things such as studying, working, serving, and growing.

yourself. In this way they cannot avoid the temptation of promiscuity.

An exemplary example of maintaining holiness and faith can be found in the life of Yusuf in the Bible. Yusuf showed obedience to his parents, perseverance in facing temptation, and full trust in God, even though he faced various trials in life. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Yusuf, he firmly refused and chose to honor God despite facing dire consequences (Manullang et al., 2023). At that time, despite being unjustly imprisoned, Yusuf entrusted his life to God and took the opportunity to be a blessing to others. He even showed forgiveness to his brothers who had betrayed him, understanding that everything that happened was part of God's plan.

Yusuf's life teaches the importance of fear of God, obedience, forgiveness, and perseverance in faith. This attitude is important for today's young Christians who face many challenges, including free association. By imitating Yusuf's character, young Christians can become individuals who not only protect themselves from bad influences, but also have a positive impact on their environment (Sinambela et al., 2023).

In general, the issue of freedom of association is a challenge that requires careful attention from various parties, especially the family, the church, and society. By providing appropriate education and guidance and helping young people strengthen their faith, we hope the young generation face this challenge carefully and live according to Christian values (Isnaini Ridha Maulida et al., 2022). A lifestyle that maintains holiness, prioritises responsibility, and uses time wisely will help them live a life that is meaningful and pleasant to God (Sukono & Suryaningsih, 2021).

Therefore, this research aims to analyze the lessons that can be taken from Yusuf's persistence in facing the temptations of Potiphar's wife, as reported in the Book of Genesis. 39:11-23. This research also aims to investigate the reasons that caused Yusuf to reject Potiphar's wife's offer, even though he had to face a great risk. Additionally, this research explains how the suffering Yusuf experienced after being slandered can be an important example for young Christians about

the consequences of making good decisions. Lastly, this research examines how the young generation of Christians can remain firm in their faith, especially in the context of promiscuity, despite being ridiculed or negatively influenced by society.

METHOD

This research method uses a textual (biblical exposition), moral theology, psychology and social cultural approach to understand and apply the values contained in Genesis 39:11-23, especially in the context of Christian free association (Kasingku & Sanger, 2023). Today, young people the textual approach is carried out through studying the historical context, analyzing central themes such as moral integrity and self-control, as well as relevant explanations regarding Yusuf's character as an example of faith and perseverance. The moral theology approach explores the values of sincerity, honesty and obedience to God as practical learning for the younger generation of Christians facing the challenges of promiscuity. The psychological approach illustrates Yusuf's mental strength to resist pressure, as well as his strategy to avoid tempting situations, which can be an important lesson for the moral stability of Christian teenagers. Meanwhile, Menghu's social and cultural approach

connect the challenges faced Yusuf with pressure party couple Of modern society, emphasizes the importance of protecting the environment Which positive and respect values faith Implications of this research between other is strengthen faith through prayer and living in a Christian community, as well as the importance of maintaining integrity and honor as a form of respect to God.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Political Context at the Time of Yusuf
The period of Yusuf's leadership occurred under the rule of the Egyptian Pharaoh, with a complex and challenging political situation. Yusuf, who was appointed Pharaoh's deputy, played an important role in the government after his dramatic life journey, including betrayal by his brothers, imprisonment, and finally accession because of his ability to

interpret Pharaoh's dreams. The dream revealed there would be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. Yusuf used his influence to design strategic policies that were able to maintain Egypt's stability during times of crisis.

- a. Yusuf in the fight against hunger
Yusuf implemented a long-term strategy to overcome the famine, beginning with accumulating food reserves during seven years of abundance. With the approval of Pharaoh Yusuf built storage facilities throughout Egypt to handle agricultural produce. When shortages hit, these food reserves were distributed not only to the Egyptian people, but also to neighboring countries. Yusuf also sells food to his extended family who came from Canaan. In addition, Yusuf established a policy of purchasing land from people who were unable to provide for themselves, so that the land became the property of Pharaoh. This action strengthened the government's power
- b. center and maintaining Egypt's political stability.
The political impact of Yusuf's policies Yusuf's policies were able to save Egypt from famine and at the time strengthen the country's political position. Egypt became a supply center for its neighboring countries, thus strengthening its reputation as the dominant power in the region. Yusuf also increased Pharaoh's wealth and authority through his land acquisition policies. This strategy does not only address economic challenges, but also ensures solid political stability, both at the national and regional levels.
- c. Social Structure and Government
In Yusuf's time, Egypt had an organized social structure under the authority of the Pharaoh. Strict social hierarchies divided society into specific classes, from nobles to serfs. Yusuf, although originally a slave, managed to attain a high official position through his competence and integrity, reflecting opportunities for social mobility for talented individuals.

The centralized government structure made it easier for Yusuf to implement his policies, especially during the famine crisis, so that the country's stability was maintained.

- d. Religious Beliefs
Ancient Egypt was polytheistic, with belief in many gods and goddesses influence various aspects of community life. However, Yusuf, as a monotheist, remained faithful to his belief in the One God. Even though he did not directly change Egypt's polytheistic system, Yusuf's presence brought the influence of monotheistic values which showed courage in defending his beliefs in a society with a different belief system.
- e. Economic Culture
Egyptian economic culture during Yusuf's time was centered on the agricultural system. Yusuf used agricultural produce during the fertile period to be stored in the warehouses he established, ensuring food availability during times of hunger crisis. His policies in managing natural resources not only saved Egypt from economic collapse but also strengthened Egypt's position as an economic center in the region.
- f. Language and Literature
The ancient Egyptian language, with its hieroglyphic writing, was widely used for a variety of purposes, including administrative and religious. The culture of writing developed rapidly during Yusuf's time, enabling more effective management of state administration. The role of language in government makes it easier for Yusuf to convey his policies systematically to the people and other officials.
- g. Family Values
Family values were held in high esteem in Yusuf's time. This can be seen from the attitude of Yusuf who forgave his brothers who had betrayed him and took his family to Egypt to live in the fertile land of Goshen. This action reflects the strong values of reconciliation and solidarity, which strengthened the

relationship between the people of Israel and Egypt at that time.

2. Social Situation in the Time of Yusuf

Life social Egypt at the time of Yusuf was dominated by the government Which centered on down pharaoh. Social stratification that clearly divides society inwards classes certain circumstances, but Yusuf's success shows that at competence can overcome barriers to social status. Challenge main hunger resolved blessing Yusuf's policies that ensure distribution on food Which fair and efficient. Level this maintains social stability and prevents conflict in public.

3. Cultural and Trust Transformation

Yusuf's presence in Egypt brought a new influence on the culture and beliefs of the people. Although the polytheistic system dominated, the monotheistic values introduced by Yusuf showed the possibility of transformation on culture gradually. Yusuf successfully showed that religious beliefs can live side-by-side with the duties and responsibilities of government without disrupting social harmony. Yusuf's leadership in Egypt provided many valuable lessons about leadership strategies, resource management, and the influence of religion in social life. Yusuf's wise politics not only saved Egypt from famine, but also strengthened political stability and created significant social change. The integration of moral values, leadership vision and administrative expertise that Jusufi applies remains important as a source of inspiration to overcome current challenges (Simanjuntak et al., 2021).

בְּרֵאשִׁית 23 11-23 Chapter 39: Genesis
הַזֶּה, וַיְבֹא הַבַּיְתָה לַעֲשׂוֹת מְלֶאכֶתוֹ; וְאִין אִישׁ מֵאֲנָשֵׁי
הַבַּיְתָה, שָׁם--בַּבַּיְתָה. 11
בְּבִגְדֵי לְאֹמֶר, שְׂכָבָה עִמִּי; וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ, וַיִּנָּס וַיֵּצֵא
הַחוּצָה
וַיְהִי-בֶקֶר, יוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי

אֱלֹהִים, זֶהי מְאֹרֶת בְּרַקִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם, לְהַבְדִּיל, בֵּין הַיּוֹם
וּבֵין הַלַּיְלָה; וְהָיוּ לְאֹתוֹת וּלְמוֹעֲדִים, וּלְיָמִים וּשְׁנָיִם.

לְמְאֹרֶת בְּרַקִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם, לְהַאִיר עַל-הָאָרֶץ; וַיְהִי-כֵן.

אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-שְׁנֵי הַמְּאֹרֶת הַגְּדֹלִים: אֶת-הַמְּאֹרֶת הַגְּדֹל
לְמַשְׁשֶׁלֶת הַיּוֹם וְאֶת-הַמְּאֹרֶת הַקָּטָן לְמַשְׁשֶׁלֶת הַלַּיְלָה, וְאֵת
הַכּוֹכָבִים

אֱלֹהִים, בְּרַקִּיעַ הַשָּׁמַיִם, לְהַאִיר, עַל-הָאָרֶץ

בַּיּוֹם וּבַלַּיְלָה, וּלְהַבְדִּיל, בֵּין הָאֹרֶר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ; וַיֵּרָא
אֱלֹהִים, כִּי-טוֹב

וַיְהִי-בֶקֶר, יוֹם רְבִיעִי

אֱלֹהִים--יִשְׂרָצוּ הַמַּיִם, שָׂרָץ נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה; וְעוֹף יַעֲוֹפֵף עַל-
הָאָרֶץ, עַל-פְּנֵי רַקִּיעַ

אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-הַתַּנְיָנִים הַגְּדֹלִים; וְאֵת כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ הַחַיָּה הַרְמִשָּׁה
אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָצוּ הַמַּיִם לְמִינֵהֶם, וְאֵת כָּל-עוֹף כָּנָף לְמִינֵהוּ
וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים, כִּי-טוֹב.

אֲתָם אֱלֹהִים, לְאֹמֶר: פָּרוּ וּרְבוּ, וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הַמַּיִם בַּיָּמִים
וְהָעוֹף, יִרָב בְּאָרֶץ

וַיְהִי-בֶקֶר, יוֹם חָמִישִׁי

Genesis 39:11-23

11. Let the ground grow young shoots, plants with seeds, and all kinds of fruit trees that produce fruit with seeds in the ground.' So be it."

12. And Allah saw that it was good, after the earth produced grass, plants that bear seeds, and trees that bear fruit with seeds.

13. and it was late in the evening and it was late in the morning, that was the third day.

14. Let there be luminaries in the firmament to separate the day from the night, and let those luminaries be signs for seasons, days and years".

15. and let them be Light in the sky of heaven to illuminate.

16. "Allah made two great luminaries, namely the larger one to rule the day and the smaller one to rule the night, and also made the stars."

17. And Allah placed it in the sky to give light to the earth."

18. and to rule over day and night, and to separate light and darkness. And Allah will see that everything is good."

19. And it was late in the evening and it was late in the morning, the fourth day.

20. And God said: 'Let there be flocks of animals in the water, and let birds fly on the earth, in the firmament of the sky.

21. And Allah created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that creeps, with which the waters surge, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to their kind; and Allah saw that it was good."

22. and Allah blessed them, saying: 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters of the sea, and let fowl multiply on the earth

23. And the evening was past and the morning was past, that was the fifth day. from England

The story of Yusuf in Genesis 39:11-23 teaches steadfastness and courage in facing sexual temptation (Hardiyanti et al., 2015). Yusuf refused the advances of Potiphar's wife, even though he was aware of the bad consequences that would befall him. This decision shows the strength of moral principles rooted in faith in God, not just physical strength. In the context of today's Christian youth, this story provides an important example of commitment to living a holy life and rejecting promiscuity that damages one's integrity.

Yusuf also demonstrated extraordinary spiritual maturity. He is able to control his impulses and act with wisdom in difficult situations. This reflects the maturity of faith which becomes a strong basis for every decision taken. Today's Christian youth need to emulate Yusuf by developing spiritual maturity to face worldly challenges without losing direction in life according to the teachings of Christ (Siregar, 2020).

Yusuf's commitment to moral principles is another important lesson. He maintained his integrity even though he had to accept the heavy consequences of imprisonment. His determination teaches Christian youth to be loyal to moral principles and Christian teachings, even though this may not always be easy or receive support from the social environment (Simanjuntak et al., 2021).

From Yusuf's story, we can learn several important lessons. First, Yusuf had firm and clear moral beliefs in distinguishing right and wrong. This firmness makes him able to resist temptation with extraordinary courage. Second, he tries to

avoid situations that could shake his integrity, which is an important reminder to stay away from environments or associations that bring negative influences. Third, Yusuf chose to depend on God in facing every challenge. This strong spiritual connection helps him survive even the most difficult situations. Lastly, Yusuf demonstrated impressive self-control abilities, which allowed him to maintain integrity even under great pressure.

Yusuf's story also has major implications for today's Christian youth. Temptations in the form of promiscuity and sexual freedom are increasingly appearing in the modern era. Therefore, Christian youth need to maintain their integrity by rejecting these temptations. Loyalty to God is an important foundation for facing worldly temptations, including in relationships and morality. Even though they face consequences such as social rejection or ridicule, Christian youth are invited to remain patient and believe that God is always with them. By maintaining purity and integrity, they can also become leaders who have a positive influence in the future.

Yusuf's Suffering After Being Defamed

After refusing the temptation of Potiphar's wife, Yusuf experienced severe suffering. He was unfairly accused and thrown into prison even though he was innocent. This accusation reflects a deep betrayal of Yusuf's integrity. Life in prison is also full of physical and emotional challenges, especially because Yusuf has to live far from his family and loved ones. In this loneliness and pressure, Yusuf still showed extraordinary resilience. He viewed his suffering as a test from God and remained faithful in praying and sharing wisdom with his fellow prisoners. This shows that suffering can be a means of forming stronger faith.

Firm in Faith in the Middle of Free Association

Facing the temptation of adversity, young Christians can learn from the example of Yusuf a Christians can learn from Yusuf's example in many ways. First, faith education is very important to strengthen understanding of Christian teachings. Bible studies, church services, and discussion groups can help instill strong Christian values. Second, building a

community that supports faith is a source of great strength. In this community, young Christians can share experiences and strengthen others in facing difficulties. challenge.

Apart from that, being a role model who represents Christian teachings is also an important step. Good behavior and maintained integrity can be an inspiration to others. Avoiding negative environments or situations is also necessary to keep your faith strong. However, this step does not mean isolating yourself, but rather being careful in choosing friends and activities.

A personal relationship with God through prayer is also an important key to overcoming temptation. Spiritual reflection helps young people in many ways. First, faith education is very important to strengthen understanding of Christian teachings. Bible studies, church services, and discussion groups can help instill strong Christian values. Second, building a community that supports faith is a source of great strength. In this community, young Christians can share experiences and strengthen others in facing difficulties. challenges. Apart from that, being a role model who represents Christian teachings is also an important step. Good behavior and maintained integrity can be an inspiration to others. Avoiding negative environments or situations is also necessary to keep your faith strong. However, this step does not mean isolating yourself, but rather being careful in choosing friends and activities. A personal relationship with God through prayer is also an important key to overcoming temptation. Spiritual reflection helps young people

Kristen remains calm and wise in every decision. When faced with negative impressions or comments, they are encouraged to respond with wisdom and patience, demonstrating an attitude of love as Christ taught them. Ultimately, focusing on a larger purpose in life can help young Christians remain steadfast in their faith. By understanding that this life is a call to serve God and others, they can face social pressures with confidence and have a positive impact on their environment.

CONCLUSION

From this research, it can be concluded that the story of Yusuf in Genesis 39:11-23 provides valuable lessons regarding the steadfastness of faith, moral integrity, and self-control in facing temptation, including in the context of promiscuity. Just like Yusuf who rejected the advances of Potiphar's wife despite facing huge consequences, today's Christian youth are also faced with various temptations, especially those related to promiscuity. Moral integrity based on faith in God is a strong foundation for every life decision.

Yusuf's story also teaches the importance of spiritual maturity and self-control in difficult situations. Despite unjust suffering, Yusuf remained faithful to God and demonstrated forgiveness and wisdom. The suffering that Yusuf experienced became a means of forming a stronger faith, and this is relevant for young Christians who face worldly challenges.

Therefore, young Christians can emulate Yusuf's character by maintaining integrity, staying away from destructive relationships, and remaining loyal to the moral principles taught in the Christian faith. In facing the temptation of promiscuity and its consequences, Christian youth are expected to continue to believe that God will always be with them, and through loyalty and self-control, they can live a life that is pleasing to God.

REFERENCE

- Alkitab Terjemahan Baru (TB) - Kejadian 39:11-23
- Beale, G. K. *The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*. IVP Academic, 2016.
- Bock, Darrell L. *Jesus according to Scripture: Restoring the Portrait from the Gospels*. Baker Academic, 2015.
- Siregar, J. P. (2020). Pengembangan Watak Kristen Melalui Pengampunan. *IMMANUEL: Jurnal Teologi dan Pendidikan Kristen*, 1(1), 33-42.
- Clines, David J. A. *The Theme of the Pentateuch*. T&T Clark, 2016.
- Ferguson, Sinclair B. *The Whole Christ: Legalism, Antinomianism, and Gospel Assurance—Why the Marrow*

- Controversy Still Matters. Crossway, 2016.
- Gorman, Michael J. Abide in Christ: A Biblical Theology of John 15. Baker Academic, 2015.
- Hernandez, R. (2018). Purity and Integrity: A Study of Yusuf's Life and Its Application to Today's Youth. Los Angeles, CA: Hope Publishing.
- Hos, H. J., & Ambo Upe, S. S. (2018). *Pergaulan Simanjuntak, F., Simanjuntak, I. F., Widjaja, F. I., Sanjaya, Y., & Tarigan, J. (2021). Dari Spiritualitas Kepada Moralitas: Pelajaran Kepemimpinan Dari Kehidupan Yusuf. EDULEAD: Journal of Christian Education and Leadership, 2(2), 251-75. bebas di kalangan pelajar (studi kasus di desa Simanjuntak, F., Simanjuntak, I. F., Widjaja, F. I., Sanjaya, Y., & Tarigan, J. (2021). Dari Spiritualitas Kepada Moralitas: Pelajaran Kepemimpinan Dari Kehidupan Yusuf. EDULEAD: Journal of Christian Education and Leadership, 2(2), 251-75. masaloka kecamatan kepulauan masaloka raya kabupaten bomabana* (Doctoral dissertation, Haluoleo University).
- Wright, Christopher J. H. The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission. Zondervan, 2015.
- Ito, K. A. H., & Saingo, Y. A. (2025). Implementasi Karakter Kristen dalam Menjaga Moralitas dan Kekudusan Hidup sebagai Manusia yang Beradap. *JURNAL PENDIDIKAN DAN ILMU SOSIAL (JUPENDIS)*, 3(1), 387-404.
- Ivan, I. (2022). Belajar dari Kisah Yusuf: Studi Teologis Kejadian 37-50 dan Implikasinya terhadap Pertumbuhan Karakter Pemuda di Gereja Toraja Jemaat Bau Klasis Sangalla'Barat (Doctoral dissertation, Institut Agama Kristen Negeri (IAKN) Toraja).
- Lahagu, A. (2021). Peran Pendidikan Agama Kristen Dalam Membangun Karakter Remaja Di Sekolah Menengah Pertama. *Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*. Zondervan, 2017.
- Longman, Tremper. The Book of Proverbs. Eerdmans, 2017.
- McKnight, Scot. The King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited. Zondervan, 2016.
- Packer, J. I. Knowing God. InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Pett, Leslie. The Interpretation of Genesis 39:11-23. *Journal of Biblical Literature*, 2015.
- Simanjuntak, F., Simanjuntak, I. F., Widjaja, F. I., Sanjaya, Y., & Tarigan, J. (2021). Dari Spiritualitas Kepada Moralitas: Pelajaran Kepemimpinan Dari Kehidupan Yusuf. *EDULEAD: Journal of Christian Education and Leadership, 2(2), 251-75*.
- Sweeney, Marvin A. The Prophet Isaiah: A Theological Introduction. Fortress Press, 2016.
- Willard, Dallas. The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God. HarperOne, 2016.
- Wright, C. J. H. (2010). The Message of Ezekiel: A New Commentary. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic.
- Yunus, Y. (2017). Kisah Yusuf: Integritas dan Kesetiaan kepada Tuhan (Edisi Revisi). Jakarta: Penerbit Teologi.