

think you would think and feel if your owner's wife came on to you?

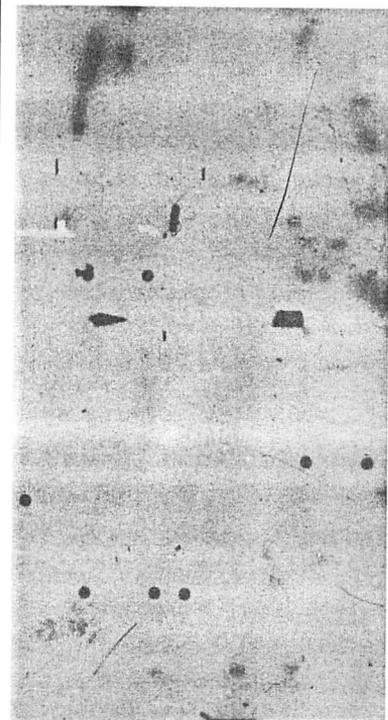
Q: Are you surprised by Joseph's choices?

Q: Put yourself in Mrs. Potiphar's place. How do you think you would feel if the good-looking slave kid turned down your generous offer of sex?

Q: Put yourself in Mr. Potiphar's place. How do you think you would feel if you came home to find your wife in hysterics, holding the clothes of the good-looking slave kid, claiming he tried to rape her?

In prison Joseph eventually meets people who connect him with the pharaoh. Seeing how talented Joseph is—and it doesn't hurt that God gives Joseph insight into his plans for Egypt—the pharaoh places him in charge of the government where Joseph prepares the whole nation to survive a drought that devastates the rest of the world. I wonder what would have happened if Joseph hadn't refused to have sex with Potiphar's wife.

Q: Do you see any similarities between the story of Joseph and the story about Julia?



compulsions that obscure the fetish. Which is to say the fetish may not be nearly the most destructive obsession that person deals with, but it may produce the most shame because it's the most unusual.

Because of the characteristics of addiction—tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, self-deception, loss of willpower, distortion of attention—fetishes sometimes lead to increasingly risky, even dangerous, behavior. That's why it's important to try to help people struggling with sexual fetishes.

Which is a challenge in youth groups. Most kids never mention fetishes in youth groups because lots of youth workers make jokes about such things—and who wants to be the butt of jokes? So if you want to serve someone struggling with a sexual fetish, start by not making fun of temptations you don't understand.

To go further, let your group know you're aware that some people struggle with issues they've never heard anybody else talk about. Tell them you're willing to talk in private with anyone who would like to ask questions about temptation or struggle.

Then be prepared for the possibility no one will say anything—or someone may tell you they're the victim of sexual assault; or somebody might talk with you about a "friend;" or who knows what else? The important thing is that you express your openness to any conversation.

Having said that, it's important to acknowledge that if someone does talk with you about a sexual fetish, you probably won't really know what to do. If that's true, do this:

- **Listen compassionately. Ask thoughtful questions. Keep in mind the five marks of addiction above to explore the strength of the fetish. Take your time.**
- **Be honest about the limits of your knowledge and skill.**
- **Reassure him of your commitment to confidentiality and ask if you may put him in touch with someone who has more experience in this area than you. Offer to go with him. See page 13 for some thoughts on referrals.**
- **If the student is a different gender than you are, that's another great reason to ask if you may put him or her in touch with another supportive and caring adult.**
- **If you don't already know who that other helper is, find him in a timely manner and follow through with what you promised. If it takes more time than you thought, let your student know what's going on so he's not left to wonder. Be aware that he'll probably feel pretty vulnerable during this time because the cat is out of the bag.**
- **Follow through. Stay in touch. Don't act as if the conversation never happened. Ask thoughtful questions. Keep confidentiality. Pray for him. And guard your own heart.**