



# Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

## Wednesday Prayer

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**He dares to say “No.”**

**The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands... he made (Joseph) overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Genesis 39: 2-4, 7-9**

Our current reality is that of far too many powerful men sexually harassing and preying upon women in systems of corrupting power. But here, Joseph is in the position of his master's wife trying to force him into a sexual act. Joseph rejects her, falling from power because he dares to say “No.” He dared to say no, paying a price for his integrity.

I wonder, is this what is feared by some boys, young men and older men, in this culture of hyper masculinity? That they would “fall from power” in some way if they speak up when women and girls are being disrespected, harassed or sexually abused? I've heard some men's groups that promote healthy masculinity say that men often feel as long as they're not the abuser, then they must be okay. But then they are challenged to go further, to act counter-culturally to work against the forces that drive other men and boys to dishonor women and girls. To risk. To speak up.

Joseph continues to act courageously, with integrity, even in the most challenging situations. He knows that God will continue to work in his life. Let us act courageously in this challenging culture, raising up a generation of boys and young men who will dare to say “No.”

**Dear God, we pray that we have the strength to take risks, to speak up, to say “No.” Give us the faith of Joseph, and the courage to act for what is right, so that we may be your witness in this world. Amen.**

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Today's Wednesday Prayer was written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a 1-minute video by “A Call to Men” talking about openly having these conversations with other men and the boys in their lives.