

FROM **DREAM** TO **DESTINY**  
FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

## The Palace Test

**Focus** God has a dream and a destiny for every person, but we must pass some character tests before we can fulfill our destiny.

**Open** What is your favorite season of the year? Why?

**Read** When Joseph was serving as a slave in Potiphar's house, he was probably tempted to "take shortcuts" or not totally apply himself to his work. But Joseph chose to honor God by being a good steward and doing things God's way. Therefore, "*The Lord was with him, and he was a successful man*" (Genesis 39:23). God wants to prosper us—to "push us forward"—so that we may bless others and help them prosper. We prosper when the favor of God is upon us.

The key to prospering is the presence of the Lord. We walk *with* God when we obey Him—when we do things His way. Salvation comes by grace; blessing comes through obedience (Deuteronomy 11:26–28). We live in a cursed world, and God's presence is a covering (a shield) for those who walk *with* Him through obedience.

The key to obedience is faith. When we obey, we demonstrate that we believe God's Word is true, and that there are rewards for obedience and consequences for disobedience. The root of disobedience is unbelief (Hebrews 3:18–19). The Bible says that we grow in faith by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). The Word of God has the power to change our lives.

**Talk**

1. Read Luke 16:10–12. What does this passage have to do with “The Palace Test”? What is the relationship between stewardship and God’s favor?
2. What is the biblical meaning of the words “prosper” and “prosperity”?
3. Why does God want us to obey Him and for whose benefit?
4. What does Proverbs 28:13 say we are to do when we make mistakes? What will happen if we do not?
5. Read Hebrews 3:18–19. Why did God describe the disobedience of the Israelites as unbelief? What does this show us about the areas in which we struggle to obey God?
6. Romans 10:17 says, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” Why is the key to faith *hearing* the Word of God and not *obeying* the Word of God?

**Live**

1. What are practical ways to “hear” the Word of God? What ways have been the most effective or beneficial for you? How can you encourage one another to “increase your intake” of the Word?
2. In what area of your life do you need to obey God—to do things His way—even though it may be difficult?

**Pray**

Thank God for His goodness and for wanting to prosper you. Ask Him to reveal areas of unbelief in your heart. Repent for areas of unbelief and disobedience. Pray that the Lord will give you the “heart” to hear and receive the truth of His Word that you may walk with Him daily.