

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Genesis 39:6b-23 Joseph is put into prison

Are there times when you know something is just not the right thing to do? Joseph had exactly that experience, but he chose to honour God and not do what he knew would cause trouble. How can we make 'right' choices? We need to understand what God wants for our lives.

Last time we saw how Joseph trusted God while he was facing difficult times. This week we'll watch him choose to do the right thing even when he was tempted to do the opposite.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ A slide with a range of images representing activities the children may like or dislike, labelled A-H – see Start It section

Start It

Screen share: slide with range of activities.

Find out which activities the children like or dislike to do. Share the images and make sure the children know what activity they represent. Ask them to put the activities in order, using the letters, with their favourite first (most liked) to their least favourite (most disliked).

- a) A night at the theatre
- b) Tickets to watch your favourite football team
- c) A giant ice-cream sundae
- d) A huge pile of books
- e) A snuggly with a puppy
- f) An afternoon of fresh air in the park
- g) A trip to Disneyland
- h) A night in watching your favourite programme on TV

Ask the group to share their lists.

Ask: Why do you think some of you have them in a different order?

🗨 **Say:** God made us all differently with different likes and dislikes. This means that we are often tempted in different ways. Someone who loves chocolate is going to find it a lot more difficult to resist the temptation to eat lots of it compared to someone who doesn't. In last week's session we saw how Joseph's brothers craved their father's love and attention. When they thought Joseph had taken it away, they gave in to temptation and made the wrong choices. Today we will see Joseph facing his own temptation to do the wrong thing. I wonder if he will make the same choice as his brothers?

Sing It

● **Say:** Our Bible verse from Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us how important it is to trust in God's wisdom, rather than our own understanding.

Ask: Did anyone manage to learn these words off by heart? If so, then see if you can share it with the rest of the group.

**'Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.'**

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

● **Say:** Here's an upbeat song – and hopefully you will already know the words! [Note that the final line in the song is: 'and he will make your paths straight'.]

'Proverbs 3:5-6 (Trust in the Lord)' by The Rizers (3 mins 25 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUR1ufexry0>

Tell It

Ask: Think back to our last session together. What has happened in Joseph's story so far?

● **Say:** When we left Joseph last time, he had just arrived at Potiphar's house and things seemed to be getting better.

Screen share: Genesis 39:1-6 (ICB).

'Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar was an officer to the king of Egypt. He was the captain of the palace guard. He bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. He lived in the house of his master, Potiphar the Egyptian.'

'Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph. He saw that the Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did. So Potiphar was very happy with Joseph. He allowed Joseph to be his personal servant. He put Joseph in charge of the house. Joseph was trusted with everything Potiphar owned. So Joseph was put in charge of the house. He was put in charge of everything Potiphar owned. Then the Lord blessed the people in Potiphar's house because of Joseph. And the Lord blessed everything that belonged to Potiphar, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything he owned. Potiphar was not concerned about anything, except the food he ate.'

● **Say:** When Joseph was taken away by the Ishmaelites he didn't know what would happen. He ended up in the house of Potiphar and God blessed everything that he did.

Ask: How do you think Joseph felt when everything started to go well for him at Potiphar's house?

● **Say:** Let's find out what happens next in Joseph's story.

Video

Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39-41) by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 16 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SCAXrEmRRA>

● **Say:** Everything was going well for Joseph and Potiphar trusted him. Potiphar's wife thought Joseph was very handsome and started trying to tempt him to do the wrong thing. (She really, really fancied him!) But Joseph was determined to make the right choice. This made Potiphar's wife very angry.

Ask:

→ Can you think of any examples where someone has tempted you to do the wrong thing?

→ How did you react?

- Why is it sometimes hard to stop yourself from making the wrong choice?
- Have you ever experienced someone getting angry because you won't join in with what they're doing? What did that feel like?
- 💬 **Say:** When we do the right thing, it doesn't always turn out how we expected. Read what happened to Joseph in Genesis 39:1-6 (CEV).

Screen share: Genesis 39:19-23 (ICB)

'When Joseph's master [Potiphar] heard what his wife said Joseph had done, he became very angry. So Potiphar arrested Joseph and put him into prison. This prison was where the king's prisoners were put. And Joseph stayed there in the prison.

'But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him kindness. The Lord caused the prison warden to like Joseph. The prison warden chose Joseph to take care of all the prisoners. He was responsible for whatever was done in the prison. The warden paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's care. This was because the Lord was with Joseph. The Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did.'

Ask: What did God do to show Joseph that he was pleased that he had made the right choice?

- 💬 **Say:** Sometimes it can be really hard to do the right thing when we feel pressured to go along with the crowd or by a person that we feel has more power than us. Even though it made life harder, Joseph chose to do the right thing. God wants us to do the same and promises us that he will never give us more temptation than we can handle.

'The only temptations that you have are the temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can stand. But when you are tempted, God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to stand it.'

1 Corinthians 10:13 (ICB)

Action It

- 💬 **Say:** Joseph's life might have been easier in the short term if he had done what Potiphar's wife wanted, but Joseph wanted to make a wise choice.

Screen share: 'Wisdom makes decisions today that will still be good tomorrow.' – Lysa Terkeurst

Ask:

- What do you think this quote means?
- How does it link in with our discussions about temptation?
- 💬 **Say:** Sometimes when we are tempted, we make a decision that feels better in the short term rather than thinking about the long-term consequences.

Discuss

Share each scenario, listed below, and discuss.

Ask:

- What choice might you be tempted to make?
 - What choice do you think God would want you to make in each situation?
1. There's a film that your parents have told you isn't appropriate for you to watch. While you're at your friend's house, they put the film on the TV.
 2. During a lesson, one of your classmates leans over, whispers a juicy piece of gossip about someone else and tells you to pass it on.
 3. You're taking a test at school and end up sitting next to the class maths genius. You can glance over easily and copy the right answers without being noticed.
 4. You have a supply teacher looking after your class and she asks what time break is. One of the older members of the class tells her the wrong time and the rest of the class starts giggling.

5. You nip into your brother's bedroom and spot a bar of chocolate under the bed that he's obviously forgotten about.

● **Say:** Joseph put his trust in God and made the right decision, even though he wasn't sure what the consequences would be. As you go into this week remember to follow Joseph's example whenever you're tempted.

Pray It

Dear God,

Sometimes it can be hard to do the right thing when we're tempted to make a different choice. Help us to be kind even when others are unkind, to stand up for those that others ignore, and to do the right thing even when it won't make us popular.

Help us to trust in your understanding and try to live our lives as Jesus would.

AMEN.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.