

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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Tempted

Scripture Passage: Genesis 39:3-12,19-21

The Point: God is honored when we are faithful to Him and His standards.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

A. This session focuses on Joseph's temptation as a slave in Egypt.

1. He didn't choose those difficult circumstances.
2. Nevertheless, the Lord was with Joseph and helped him succeed in a difficult life situation.
3. Joseph showed a growing faith in God by resisting the temptation of sexual sin and, afterward, the temptation to be bitter for being falsely accused and imprisoned.

B. Joseph was sold to Potiphar who was an officer in the Egyptian pharaoh's court.

1. Joseph quickly rose to prominence as a servant in Potiphar's household.
2. He was put in charge of Potiphar's entire household and possessions (vv.1-6).

II. SUCCESSFUL (Genesis 39:3-6a)

A. Now a slave in Egypt, Joseph did not know what lay ahead.

1. But God was with him, preparing the way.
2. God would use all the circumstances of Joseph's life to fulfill a greater purpose He had for Joseph and, indeed, for all Israel.

B. The evidence of God's presence was his success (v.3).

C. "personal assistant" = same word used to describe Joshua's role with Moses (v.4).

1. Potiphar recognized Joseph's integrity and leadership gifts.

D. Because Joseph was in charge, the Lord blessed (v.5).

E. "did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate" affirms Joseph's integrity and wisdom (v.6a).

III. TEMPTED (Genesis 39:6b-12)

A. The words used to describe Joseph were the same that were used describe his mother Rachal (v.6b).

1. This may be another reason his brothers were jealous of him.

B. Potiphar's wife had been lusting after Joseph for some time (v.7).

1. He was in charge of everything else, why not his wife too.

C. Joseph did not want to disappoint his master (v.8).

D. He had everything but her (v.9).

1. He reminds her of her commitment.
2. He said it was wrong.
3. He recognizes that it would be against God not just Potiphar.

- E. She didn't give up and kept after him every day (v.10).
- F. Whether he knew or not it was not a good situation (v.11).
- G. She took hold of his outer garment and would not let go (v.12).
 - 1. He ran away from the temptation, he did the right thing!

IV. **FAVORED (Genesis 39:19-21)**

- A. To cover her actions, she summoned the household servants and told them that Joseph had tried to force himself on her, leaving his cloak behind when she screamed for help (vv.13-15).
- B. When her husband returned home, she told him the same story (vv.16-18).
- C. Of course he was going to believe his wife (v.19).
- D. He was put in a minimum security prison (v.20). So Joseph was in prison, far away from his dreams.
- E. Joseph behaved in prison with the same integrity and loyalty that he showed in Potiphar's household (v.21).

V. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Believers should seek to honor God in all they do.
- B. Believers can resist sin, remembering God's standards and the joy of honoring Him.
- C. Believers can be assured that God abides with those who seek to honor Him.

D. Teaching Ideas

1. Create Interest

- a. Ask the group to answer these two questions.

- i. What do you think it would feel like to be falsely accused of a crime?

- ii. How would you react if you were put in jail for something you didn't do?

2. Closing Challenge

- a. Challenge each person to identify the temptation they face and make the commitment to follow Joseph's example and flee from them.

E. Don't Forget!!!

- 1. Tempted & Genesis 39:3-12,19-21

- 2. God is honored when we are faithful to Him and His standards.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.