



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Fall Year 1, Lesson 22

Joseph, a Prisoner in Egypt

Take Home Point: *We must be faithful to God, even if it is hard to do.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 39

Key Verse: James 4:7a, "So place yourselves under God's authority."

We will help kids know:

- The story of Joseph's temptation and faithfulness when he lived with Potiphar.
- God was faithful to Joseph even if it didn't seem so at first.




We will help kids feel:

- Repentant for the times they have given into temptation.
- Confident of the fact that God is always with us so we should remain faithful to him.

We will help kids do:

- Role-play situations when they might be tempted to sin, and act out how God can make a difference in each situation.
- Pray for God's help at times when they are tempted.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The children play a game in which they are tempted to lie. In life, each of us is tempted to do something wrong. Today's lesson will study how Joseph was faithful to God when he was tempted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deck of playing cards for each group • small package of M&Ms for each group
Large Group 	4 8 9-14 15	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Tough Choices" Radio Drama: "Jesus Lifts Our Burdens" Puppet Presentation: "Tough Choices" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • table • microphone • costume for Joseph • various signs and sound effects (see comprehensive supply list or lesson) • football with cross on it
Small Group Application 	4-6	Children will act out tempting situations. Then the group will decide in each situation what the children could do to be faithful to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set of temptation cards for each group printed with various situations (see page 7) • scissors • bookmark-size strips of card stock (<i>optional</i>) • markers or crayons (<i>optional</i>)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

The children will play a game of “How Could You?” This game is similar to the card game “I Doubt It.” Each group will have a deck of cards. (If the group is small or younger in age, you might want to remove the face cards.) The object of the game is to be the first player to get rid of all cards in your hand. Explain that the winner of the game will receive a small package of M&Ms or some other type of candy.

The cards are all dealt and kids hold their cards in hand so they can see them. The first player to the left of the dealer lays face down all of the “ones” (aces) he has, declaring the number of cards he has put down. For example, he might say as he plays his cards “Two, Ones” if he has two aces in his hand. The second person lays down “twos,” the third person lays down “threes,” and so on. If a player does not have the right cards for the sequence, he can “fib” and play whatever cards he wants, while declaring he has the correct cards.

A player can also add more cards to the correct cards he has. For example, if the number was “three” and he only had one “three,” he could put down a “three” and a “four” and say “I have two, Threes.”

If someone thinks the player is fibbing, he says so with the words, “**How could you?**” If the player is fibbing, he has to take all the cards from the pile into his own hand. If he wasn’t fibbing, the challenger would take the cards.

The game continues until someone has no cards left. The incentive of candy for the winner really raises the stakes and encourages people to “fib.” After ten minutes of playing or after there is a winner, discuss temptation. (Give the winner his candy. If there is no winner, share the candy with the group.)

What were you willing to do in order to win? Is telling lies a good thing or a bad thing? Why were you telling lies in this game? These are some of the same reasons people have for giving into temptation.

Temptation is when the devil helps convince us or our own evil thoughts suggest we do the wrong thing. Every person is tempted. The greater it seems the reward for doing something wrong or the more everyone else says it’s okay, the harder it is to do what is right.

In today’s Bible event we will hear how Joseph refused to give into temptation even though it cost him years in jail for doing the right thing. We will learn today that **we must be faithful to God, even if it’s hard to do.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview:

Puppet Presentation: “Tough Choices”

Gordy is tempted to keep a baseball glove that belonged to someone else. After listening to the radio drama about Joseph’s temptation with Potiphar’s wife and his faithfulness to God, Gordy decides that with God’s help, he too, can be faithful to God even when it’s hard to do.

Radio Drama: “Joseph, a Prisoner In Egypt”

Puppet Presentation: “Tough Choices” Conclusion

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Genesis 39 in their Bibles.

How did God take care of Joseph when his brothers sold him into slavery? *(Genesis 39:1. Joseph was taken to Egypt where an Egyptian official named Potiphar bought him.)*

How did Joseph come to be in charge of Potiphar’s house? *(Genesis 39:2-3. The Lord was with Joseph and made everything he did successful.)*

What happened to Joseph while he was working in Potiphar’s house? *(Genesis 39:7-20. Potiphar’s wife tempted Joseph to sin, but he resisted. Then Potiphar’s wife lied about Joseph, and Potiphar had him thrown in prison.)*

When Joseph was in prison, how did God still show his love and

blessings to him? (*Genesis 39:21-25. God let Joseph be well liked by the warden, and Joseph ended up being in charge of the other prisoners.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What made Joseph choose to do the right thing even when he knew he might go to jail?

Do you think it was easy for Joseph to choose to do the right thing?

Do you think Joseph ever questioned whether God still loved him?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Would you do what Joseph did if you knew you would be thrown in prison for doing the right thing? Why or why not?

Application Activity:

Let the children get into groups of two or three. Give each group a card with an example of a temptation they are to act out. Let the children practice for about two minutes. Younger or shy children will probably need prompting. The situations are as follows.

- Cheating on a test at school
- Telling someone else a friend's secret
- Wanting to hit a brother or sister
- Sneaking candy or cookies
- Using a cuss word
- Taking something from someone else or from a store

Read the temptation from the card as the children take turns role-playing. In each case, before they actually commit the sin, say,

Freeze! Now let's help_____ and _____ finish their role-play in a way that would please God. What could they do instead? (*For example, stop and pray.*)

Have the partners choose one suggestion and act it out.

Conclude by saying:

****We must be faithful to God, even if it's hard to do. God gives us the power to obey him when we call on the name of Jesus who has defeated temptation and given his life for us.***

Our verse from James 4:7a says, "So place yourselves under God's authority."

Optional Activity: As a reminder to be like Joseph when faced with temptation, have children make a bookmark with the key verse printed on it. Since Jesus resisted temptation, the children can draw a cross on the bookmark to be reminded of God's power given to them through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Closing Prayer:

As you pray with the children, encourage them to identify temptations they fight against. Remind them that they need to pray for God's help in these situations. Reassure the children that God has already won the victory through the blood of Jesus. Continue to keep your prayer journals.

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**Cheating on a
test**

**Telling
someone else
a friend's
secret**

**Sneaking
candy or
cookies**

**Wanting to hit
a brother or
sister**

**Using cuss
words**

**Taking
something
from someone
or a store**

Large Group Presentation

Tough Choices Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Whispering.)* Mr. King! Mr. King! Have you seen Sam?

Mr. King: **Why are you hiding from Sam? I thought you and Sam were good friends.**

Gordy: Well, this morning when I went to the ballpark, I saw this great ball glove. It was just like Sam's, but it wasn't his.

Mr. King: **Are you sure it wasn't his? I heard he lost his yesterday.**

Gordy: Well, it doesn't have his name on it.

Mr. King: **Oh, I'm starting to get the picture. You saw this ball glove and you decided to take it. Sam says it is his and now he is looking for you.**

Gordy: I didn't take it. I think God left it for me.

Mr. King: **Gordy!**

Gordy: My rule is "finders keepers, losers weepers."

Mr. King: **Gordy, is that God's rule?**

Gordy: I don't know. Maybe you're right. Maybe it is Sam's ball glove. But he shouldn't have left it lying around.

Mr. King: **I think you know what you should have done and you're feeling guilty.**

Gordy: But I want it so bad. It's hard to give it back.

Mr. King: **Sometimes it's really hard to do the right thing. Gordy, **when we are faithful to God, we must try to do the right thing, even if it's hard to do.***

Gordy: I don't know if I can always do the right thing.

Mr. King: **God will help you. He helped Joseph. Why don't you listen to Radio KLIF and see what Joseph did? I think God can teach you that **we must be faithful to God, even if it is hard to do.***

Joseph, a Prisoner In Egypt

Radio Drama

Characters:

- Host
- Joseph
- Sound technician (Shows cues and makes sounds live with props or play recorded sounds.)
- Voice 1 (Male who does Potiphar and warden. *The puppeteer could possibly do this voice.*)
- Voice 2 (Female who does Mrs. Potiphar.)

The stage is set with a table for the host and Joseph. Joseph can even be in costume to help the kids better picture the main character. Voice 1, Voice 2, and sound effects would best be done behind a screen or offstage. Adults who can change voice inflection are recommended. They would need a table, as well, for all sound props. The sound effects when hidden better capture the imagination of the audience. (*Option: sound effects could also be downloaded from the internet.*)

Option for doing the voices. *If desired, characters could be individually assigned. Instead of Voice 1 and Voice 2 behind a screen, the characters of Potiphar, the warden, and Mrs. Potiphar could be seen at the radio table. However, this might detract from the kids using their imaginations.*

The sound technician shows audience the cue signs APPLAUSE, BOO, OOH, AAH and DUM DA DUM DUM (Dragnet theme) when cued. The host can remind the audience they play a part in the drama by making the appropriate sounds when he holds up the cue signs. This should be practiced once before beginning.

Sound: 5-4-3-2-1...

Sign: ON THE AIR

Host: Welcome to Kingdom Quest's radio station KLIF, 21.28 on your FM dial. The station that celebrates the new life we have in Jesus! (Show football with cross on it.) This promise is passed to us from God through the descendants of Abraham.

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: Hi, I'm _____, and we are broadcasting live from _____. Today we continue our four-part series on Joseph. Last week's episode was "Joseph and His Brothers." When we left the family, Joseph's 10 older brothers had sold Joseph into slavery.

Sign: BOO

Host: And then they lied to their father Jacob, saying that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

Sign: OOH

Host: The last thing we heard was that Jacob refused to be comforted. He was very upset at the "supposed" death of Joseph.

Sign: AAH

Host: And Joseph was now prisoner of a caravan of Ishmaelites traveling to Egypt.

Sign: DUM DA DUM DUM

Host: Oh! There they are now. Let's catch up and find out what happened in Genesis 39 in today's episode, "Joseph, a Prisoner in Egypt."

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: While the brothers tried to comfort their father, Jacob...

Sound: CRYING and SNIFFING

Host: ...the Ishmaelites had taken Joseph into Egypt...

Sound: SNAKE CHARMER FLUTE

Sign: DUM DA DUM DUM

Host: ...and sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.

Sound: COINS JINGLING

Host: Potiphar was a very powerful man in Egypt. He was captain of the guard, to be exact.

Sound: ATTENTION!

Host: Even though Joseph's brothers had been so hateful and sold him into slavery, God was watching over Joseph. In fact, the Bible says Joseph prospered in his master's house because God gave him success in whatever he did. And because God was with him, Joseph found favor in his master's eyes.

Potiphar: Joseph, come here!

Sound: *FOOTSTEPS*

Joseph: *Yes, Master.*

Potiphar: You have been a good and faithful servant. You have done well everything I have asked. Because of your faithfulness to me, I am putting you in charge of my entire household and everything I own.

Joseph: *Thank you, Master. With God's help I will do my best to serve you.*

Host: Again the Bible tells us that from the time Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household and all he owned, God blessed Potiphar's household.

Potiphar: I have never seen such quantities of grain in a single harvest! Well done, Joseph!

Joseph: *Thank you, Master.*

Host: In fact, God blessed Potiphar's household so much that Potiphar didn't worry about *anything* at home except what was for dinner. But maybe there was something or *someone* he should have worried about.

Mrs. P.: Good-bye, dear! Have a nice day at work!

Host: Now Potiphar had a wife and she'd been watching Joseph. You see, Joseph was not only successful in all he did but he was also...

Mrs. P.: Good-looking!

Sound: *CAT WHISTLE*

Host: One day when Potiphar had left the house...

Sound: *FOOTSTEPS and DOOR SHUTS*

Host: ...Mrs. Potiphar asked Joseph to do something really bad. She wanted to kiss Joseph and get "lovey-dovey," even though she was married to Potiphar.

Mrs. P.: Jo-seph! Oh, Jo-seph!

Host: Joseph knew what she wanted him to do was very wrong, so he refused and said...

Joseph: *My Master Potiphar has put me in charge of his entire house. How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?*

Host: Even though Joseph told Potiphar's wife no, she kept after him...

Mrs. P.: Jo-seph! Oh, Jo-seph!

Sound: *KISSING SOUND*

Joseph: *NO!*

Host: ...and after him...

Mrs. P.: Jo-seph! Oh, Jo-seph!

Sound: *KISSING SOUND*

Joseph: *NO!*

Host: ...and after him!

Mrs. P.: Come on big boy!

Sound: *KISSING SOUND*

Joseph: *NO! NO! NO!*

Host: One day when everybody else in the house was gone, Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph by his cloak and asked him again.

Mrs. P.: Gotcha!

Host: This time Joseph didn't even say anything. He ran out of the house as fast as he could. He ran so fast, in fact, that he left most of his cloak in Potiphar's wife's hand!

Sound: *CLOTH TEARING, FAST FOOTSTEPS, and DOOR SLAMMING*

Host: Potiphar's wife was so mad that Joseph had run away from her, she decided to get even.

Sound: *HIGH HEELS PACING*

Mrs. P.: I'll show him!

Host: When Potiphar came home that night...

Sound: *DOOR OPENS, DOOR SHUTS, and FOOTSTEPS*

Potiphar: *Hello, sweetheart. Did you have a good day?*

Host: **Potiphar's wife did a terrible thing. She showed Potiphar Joseph's coat and she lied!**

Sign: *OOH*

Mrs. P.: It was horrible! Joseph, that Hebrew slave you bought, tried to attack me. When I started to scream he ran out of the house so fast he tore his coat!

Host: **The Bible says that Potiphar burned with anger. He called for his guards.**

Potiphar: GUARDS!

Sound: *FOOTSTEPS RUNNING*

Guards: Yes, sir!

Potiphar: Take this Hebrew slave and throw him in jail!

Host: **Even though Joseph was innocent, the guards took him away...**

Sound: *FOOTSTEPS*

Host: **...and threw him in prison.**

Sound: *SOMETHING THROWN, DOOR SLAMS SHUT, and METAL KEY or LOCK*

Joseph: Ow! Not so rough!

Host: **But the Bible tells us that while Joseph was prison, God was with him. And God was kind to Joseph and made him find favor in the eyes of the warden.**

Sound: *FOOTSTEPS and JINGLING KEYS*

Warden: Joseph, you're not like the other prisoners. I am going to put you in charge of all of the prisoners to make sure they do their work.

Joseph: Thank you, Warden. With God's help, I will be faithful in all I do. I will do my best.

Host: Just like with Potiphar, Joseph became the warden's right-hand man and supervised the other prisoners and the work they did. Even though Joseph had ended up in jail unfairly, he had been faithful to do what was right.

Warden: Joseph, you are doing such a great job. I've never seen prisoners work so hard!

Host: Joseph did such a wonderful job the warden paid no attention to anything Joseph was responsible for. Now you might be asking...

Voice 1: "I thought God was with Joseph?"

Host: You're right! God was with Joseph all the time. And then you might say...

Voice 2: "Well, why did God let Joseph go to prison? Joseph was innocent!"

Host: That is a great question. Remember: Joseph was faithful to God even if it was hard to do. Do you think God will let Joseph down? You will find out the answer in our next episode "Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt" when we answer the questions:

- Will Joseph ever get out of prison?
- Are Joseph's brothers off the hook?
- What happened to Joseph's crazy dreams?

For the answers to these and other questions, tune in as we see—I mean hear—"Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt." This is radio KLIF asking you, "Is God passing a promise your way?"

Tough Choices

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: Gordy, what do you think about Joseph? He was tempted to do something really wrong. It was hard for him to do the right thing but God helped him to be faithful.

Gordy: I think it's much harder to give back a baseball glove than to keep some yucky girl from trying to kiss you.

Mr. King: Maybe both are hard to do. But God still asks us to be faithful, and God can help us be faithful. We need to pray to him and ask for strength.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Mr. King: Pray like this.

Dear God, thank you for being faithful to us. Thank you for giving your Son Jesus to us. Jesus died for our sins and is with us now to help us be faithful. In Jesus' name, please help us make choices that are the right thing to do even if it's hard. Amen.

Gordy: Thanks, Mr. King. That helps.

Mr. King: So what are you going to do about the glove?

Gordy: Well, if you see Sam, tell him that I'm looking for him. Bye!

Mr. King: Bye, Gordy.