



Bible Character Study



from Godly Pearls

Making Jesus Christ known, one story at a time.



A NOTE TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:

Thank you for downloading this Bible Character Study.

This first page contains different sections to help you when planning for your class, for example, Home-school, Sunday School, Bible Study, Bible Club, Mission class, etc.

We suggest that you print pages 2 - 5 and distribute them to your students.



Topic:

Joseph – making a firm and godly decision



Read the Bible References: The Bible references can be read by different children if possible. Or the teacher can read them.



Goals of Lesson:

- To encourage the students to be firm when saying “no” to sin.



Lesson Takeaway:

When you are tempted to sin, say no, and keep saying no. God gives courage to say no to sin.



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Date:



Topic:

Joseph – making a firm and godly decision



Bible References:

Genesis 39:7 – 23



Who was Joseph?

In Genesis chapters 30, 37 – 50, the bible tells us a lot about the life of Joseph. We will summarise a few things about him in this study. Joseph was the first son of Rachel, the eleventh and most loved son of Jacob. His father gave him a coat of many colours because he loved him more than his other children. Joseph's brothers were angry, jealous, and hated him and planned to get rid of him. Later, they sold him to a group of Ishmaelites who carried him to Egypt. In Egypt, he was sold as a slave to Potiphar, an officer who worked for Pharaoh and was captain of the guard.



What did Joseph do?

While Joseph was in the house of Potiphar serving as a slave, the bible tells us that, “the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man” (Genesis 39:2). Even though Joseph was a slave, he was hardworking and did his work excellently. Potiphar really liked Joseph and made him overseer of his house – this means, he was in charge of everything that happened in Potiphar's house. “Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate” (Genesis 39:6).

After some time, the wife of Potiphar wanted Joseph to commit immorality with him.



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What did Joseph do? - Continued

Joseph was a very handsome young man and Potiphar's wife began to tempt Joseph. "Lie with me, come to bed with me, stay with me", she kept the pressure on Joseph. She did this every day!

What did Joseph do? "...he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:8-9). Wow, what a determined and godly response!

Let's break down Joseph's response. First, Joseph knew he occupied a high position in Potiphar's house. He respected Potiphar for trusting him to take care of everything and everyone in his house. He was not going to use his position to commit sin or have an ungodly relationship with Potiphar's wife.

Next, Joseph understood that God was present with him. He knew that if he said yes to Potiphar's wife, he was committing sin against God. He was breaking one of God's laws. He chose to honour, respect, and obey God and His laws rather than give in to the ungodly demands from Potiphar's wife.

Lastly, Joseph was also very bold in explaining his decision to Potiphar's wife. Well, he might have just made other excuses for not wanting to be with Potiphar's wife, but he told her it was because he doesn't want to sin against God. Did Potiphar's wife worship the God of Israel? No. Amazing how Joseph took a tempting situation to witness for God.

Well, Potiphar's wife kept harassing Joseph and Joseph kept saying no. "So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her" (Genesis 39:10).



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What did Joseph do? - Continued

She finally told a lie against Joseph. This lie made Potiphar send Joseph to prison. In the prison, God was with Joseph and made everything he did to be successful. Well, what work did you think he would have done in the prison? Maybe cleaning the floors or prison walls? He did it excellently! The keeper of the prison again made him the overseer of all that happened in the prison.



What can we learn from Joseph?

Whatever situation you find yourself, you should always allow your character to shine through. A bad situation is not an excuse to be lazy, rude, disrespectful, disobedient, selfish, or uncaring. You can choose to love, to be hardworking, respectful, and obedient in good and bad times. These qualities make you attractive and can even attract the favour of God and man to your life.

God was with Joseph in the house of Potiphar while he served as a slave. Wherever you are, God will always be with you. In good and bad times, God will always be with you.

When you occupy an influential position, like being the head prefect for your school, you should understand that people look up to you and trust you to do the right thing. It is a privilege to hold a position and you are not to use the position for selfish gains or to oppress and bully other people.

Joseph was constantly harassed by Potiphar's wife. He could have said yes to her demands. But Joseph honoured and respected God. He knew God was right there with Him. He also mentioned that it would be a sin against God if he gave in to the demands of Potiphar's wife. You should understand that when you break God's laws, you sin against God. You can also use whatever circumstance you find yourself to point other people to the loving God.



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Memorize:

Proverbs 1:10 - "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent".



Scenario review:

During lunchbreak, your friend, Tim, pulls you into a corner and away from the other students. He brings out a phone from an inner pocket of his shorts. He browses through a website and starts to play a dirty video. This is not the first time. Tim tries different methods to get your attention every lunchbreak, hoping that you will join him in watching the dirty videos. What will you do? Why did you make that choice?



Remember: When you are tempted to sin, say no, and keep saying no. God gives courage to say no to sin.



Let us pray: Dear God, there are so many times I am tempted to sin against You. Please give me the grace and courage to say no each time I am tempted to sin. I ask this in Jesus' name, amen!



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We will like to hear from you.

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