



Series: Lessons from God's Servants

Lesson 8: Joseph's Integrity

*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** Think of a time when you had to make a choice you didn't want to make because there would be consequences to doing the right thing.

Transition: Life's choices are not always cut and dried. Sometimes we have to make incredibly tough decisions in order to do the right thing, but at a very high cost. Our next great servant of God is Joseph. His integrity, his faith, all that was and believed was put on the line through no fault of his own. What was his choice?

Bottom Line: Joseph would rather suffer than sin. This is an especially important Biblical example of how a true servant of God reacts when placed in a tough spot.

LESSON PLAN

Read Genesis 37:1-4

Background: Jacob had 12 sons by 2 wives and 2 maidservants. This obviously did not set the boundaries for a happy functional family.

1. Why do Joseph's brothers hate him?

Question: Was there ever tension in your family because one of the siblings seemed to get more attention or privileges?

Read Genesis 37:12-36

2. What do Joseph's brothers want to do to Joseph?

Question: What are some of the issues today that cause Christians to abandon the principles of their faith?

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3. Was Rueben the only innocent one?

4. What deceitful plan did the brothers finally settle on?

5. Where did Joseph end up?

Question: If your life had taken such a severe turn, betrayed by your own family, how full of hate or severe depression do you think you would be?

Read Romans 8:28

6. How does this truth display itself in Joseph's life?

God was using evil and good to bring about a blessing in Joseph's life. In fact, even the wicked would end up blessed because of Joseph's integrity and deep faith. We know that later when the great famine came upon nations, his family would have died if it had not been for the godly choices that Joseph made.

7. What were some of the choices that Joseph would make that would change the future, glorify God and show God working for Joseph's good?

Question: Can you share a time when God worked for your good because of your integrity and faithfulness?

In between the slavery and the oversight of all Egypt came on of the greatest tests of Joseph's integrity. Without passing this test, Joseph would have died in Egypt. However, the test was putting Joseph between the proverbial rock and a hard place.

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Read Genesis 39:1-20a

8. Why did Joseph prosper rather than suffer in Egypt?

9. How does Joseph's witness affect his owner?

Question: What lesson should this teach us?

Question: How could you use this in your life?

10. What was the problem with Joseph refusing to obey his master's wife?

Question: Have you ever had a time when doing the right thing was going to cost you greatly?

11. What is Joseph's reward for doing the right thing?

Read Genesis 39:20b-23

12. How did the Lord show Joseph favor while he was in prison?

Brainstorming Session: (*Done at tables and then shared by each one with the class*) What are some examples of hardships we might endure with a godly spirit create a witness for God like Joseph provided?

Final Question: What is the one idea that stands out to you most from this lesson?



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