

# Joseph Honours God

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***This lesson teaches that it is important to honor God at all times. Joseph knew that it would be a sin against God to give into the desires of Potiphar's wife. He chose to honor God at any cost. He was not concerned that doing so may get him into a lot of trouble.***

## TOPICS

Character, Choices, Honor God, Joseph, Temptation

## AS KIDS ARRIVE (15 minutes)

Temptation Resistance (Activity) [page 3](#)

## MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

**"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

**Matthew 26:41 NIV**

Write the entire verse on the board, but leave a blank space instead for the following key words: Watch, pray, fall, temptation, spirit, willing, body, and weak. Write these key words on index cards and shuffle them. Have the kids read the verse from their Bibles a few times and then close their Bibles. Next, randomly show the index cards one at a time and have the kids tell you where that word should go. Tape each word where the students say until the verse is completed correctly. Read it aloud several more times with the children.

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

### Introduction:

Soon after Joseph arrived in Egypt, one of Pharaoh's officials, Potiphar, bought Joseph to be his servant. Potiphar was the Captain of the guard, a very high position under the Pharaoh. He owned many things. After a while, he knew that the Lord was with Joseph, because the Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar. He decided to put Joseph in charge of everything he owned. Now, with Joseph in charge, he could relax and not worry about anything. Things were going pretty well now for Joseph, especially compared to being thrown into a cistern and sold to merchants. Although he was still considered a slave, he had the freedom to enjoy everything under his care. However, after a while, Joseph's loyalty would be tested.

### Read Genesis 39:6b-23 (Joseph and Potiphar's wife)

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who took special notice of Joseph, and why? (*Potiphar's wife, because Joseph was handsome.*)
2. What did Potiphar's wife want Joseph to do? (*Go to bed with her.*)
3. Why did Joseph refuse to give into her demands? (*Because she was the wife of his master, and he knew that it would be a sin against God to sleep with someone else's wife.*)
4. How often was Joseph faced with the temptation to be with Potiphar's wife? (*She tried to get Joseph to be with her day after day.*)
5. Although Joseph did the right thing, and chose to honor God, what happened to him? (*He was thrown into prison.*)
6. Did Joseph get what he deserved? (*No, he chose to honor God, but had to suffer because of the lies told by Potiphar's wife.*)
7. What happened to Joseph while he was in prison? (*Because the Lord was with Joseph, the warden put him in charge of everything done in the prison.*)
8. Like Joseph, how important is it to honor God by doing what is right, even if the outcome may be something we really don't want? (*Allow for answers.*)

## CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Your Choice (Object Talk) [page 4](#)

## ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Battling Sin (Game) [page 5](#)

## APPLICATION (4 minutes)

In our lesson today, we learned that it is always important to honor God by doing what is right. Each day of our lives, we will be tempted to do things that are not according to God's Will. Sometimes, we give into these temptations, turning them into a sin. We saw how Joseph was faced with a certain temptation not once but many

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times. However, he stood firm and did not give in. He did the right thing and honored God.

We also learned from Joseph that sometimes doing what is right might not end as well for us as we would like. Obeying your parents may mean that you will not be able to go out and play with your friends. Telling the truth may get you grounded. Nevertheless, it is always better for you in the long run to do what is right. God will be pleased with you when you put Him first and honor Him. Besides, when the Lord is with you, those hardships are only temporary.

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## TEMPTATION RESISTANCE

*How easy is it to do something you know is wrong, especially when the temptation is so great? Four short stories to test the kids' temptation resistance.*

### TOPICS:

Character, Choices, Obedience, Temptation

### MATERIALS:

Activity page for each child [page 6](#)

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



### PREPARATION

Before class, print or make copies of the activity page for each child.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a copy of the activity page that contains four temptation stories. Have the children read each story and then circle one of the choices to indicate how much they would be tempted to do the mentioned activity. The kids will most likely know the correct way to respond, but encourage them to be honest. After completing the activity page, go through each story again with the children to find out how they responded. *Note: If you have some younger children or children who are unable to read well, you can pair them up with older children so they can work together.*

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Let's go over each story. (After naming each story, ask the children to share what they had circled and give a short explanation as to why. Then share the responses shown below.)

1. Bridget and the New School: *(There may be several different actions Bridget could take to address this situation, some better than others. However, it is always wrong to seek revenge or to hurt someone else on purpose.)*
2. Jamie and the Test: *(It may seem to be a good thing to try to do better on a test, but it is always wrong to tell or act out a lie.)*
3. Owen and Isabella Go Camping: *(It is hard to resist eating when you are very hungry, but it is always wrong to take something without permission that does not belong to you.)*
4. Elena and the Scary Movie: *(Whether or not you feel you can handle something grown-up, you should always respect and honor your parents' instructions.)*

All sin is ultimately against God, even if what we do seems justified, or when our actions would not really hurt anyone, It is still against God's Will when we do something that we know in our heart is wrong. Instead, we must resist the temptation to sin, even when it could make matters seem less desirable for us.

Here is one more story. Shortly after Jesus was baptized, He went by Himself deep into the wilderness. He didn't bring any food with Him because it was important to show that He trusted in God. After forty days, He was very hungry. Then, the devil tempted Jesus with some food, saying that if He were the son of God, He could easily turn some stones into bread. But, Jesus chose to honor God. He did not give into the desires offered by the devil, even though it meant being hungry.

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## YOUR CHOICE

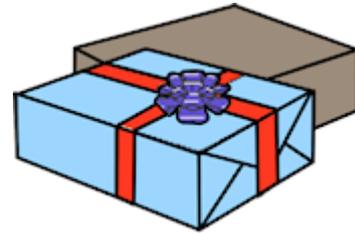
*The devil sometimes wraps bad things in pretty packages. This object talk will show the kids that it is easy to be fooled by the devil.*

### TOPICS:

Choices, Devil, Foolishness, Temptation

### MATERIALS:

Two boxes of similar size  
Wrapping paper, ribbon  
Brown paper or newspaper  
Old sock  
Pieces of candy for each child



### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class, place candy in one box and an old sock in the other. Wrap the box with the old sock in beautiful wrapping paper and a nice ribbon. Use plain brown paper or newspaper to wrap the box containing candy.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

During class, you will select two children who are good communicators. Without letting the other children hear, give one package to each volunteer and tell them that their job is to convince the class to open their package. Do not tell them what is inside. The class can only open one package, and must decide by taking a majority class vote. If they decide to open the pretty package, which is most likely, you will have them open the box to find the old sock, while explaining how the devil does the same thing in our life by making things that are bad look good. If they choose to open the ugly gift, commend them for their ability to resist such temptation. After making either point, the other package can be opened. Reward the kids with the candy in the end.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Our volunteers both have a package. They need to know which one the class will open. You can only open one package. Before you make your decision on which package to open, let's hear from the volunteers as to why you should open their package. Volunteer one, why should the class open your package? Now volunteer two, why should the class open your package?

*(Allow a few moments for the kids to think it over.)* OK, it is time for the vote. By a show of hands, who wants to open this kind of ugly package? Now who wants to open this pretty package? *(Open the package selected.)*

#### ***If voting to open the pretty package:***

It is easy to be fooled into thinking that because something is pretty on the outside, that it is good on the inside. That is not always true, like in this example.

#### ***If voting to open the ugly package:***

You are all to be congratulated. You must know that you cannot judge a book by its cover. Most classes would have voted to open the pretty package, because of the way it looks on the outside.

The devil uses this trick all the time, making things that are actually bad for us look like they are good. The Bible says "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14). So what can we do to avoid being tricked by the devil? *(Know God's Word, pray, be with God's people, etc.)* I think you have learned your lesson, so let's go ahead and open the other package to see what is inside.

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## BATTLING SIN

*Children have fun removing sin from their side of the battlefield.*

### TOPICS:

Armor of God, Sin, Stand Firm, Temptation

### MATERIALS:

Paper Towel Rolls, Colored Markers, Duct Tape, Masking Tape, Small Balls (Styrofoam or ping pong)

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



### PREPARATION:

Use duct tape to secure two paper towel rolls together (end to end) to make a "sword." Or you can use empty wrapping paper rolls by themselves. You need one "sword" for each child. Use masking tape to make a line down the middle of the room. This line will separate the floor into two battlefields, one for each team. Also, use masking tape to mark off a home base corner for each team.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Form two teams. Give each child a "sword" made out of the paper towel rolls. Allow several minutes for the kids to decorate their swords using the colored markers.

Next, explain how the Bible is our sword. Have the children call out some sins or temptations they face each day. For example, stealing, cussing, being a bully, disobeying parents, etc. As they do, throw the small balls onto the floor, making sure the balls are on both sides of the battlefield.

Give the following rules of the game:

- The object is to move any "sin balls" from your side of the battlefield to the other team's side.
- You must stand at home base in the "READY" position until you hear the word, "GO!"
- You must stay on your side of the battlefield and not cross the centerline.
- You must use only your sword to move the sin balls to the other side.
- You must stop when the leader calls out, "STOP!"
- You must use your sword wisely or it may break in half.

After saying, "GO," give the children a few minutes then yell "STOP!"

Count the number of "sin balls" on each side and pronounce the winning team of that round. Then have everyone return to the "READY" position, and play another round.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

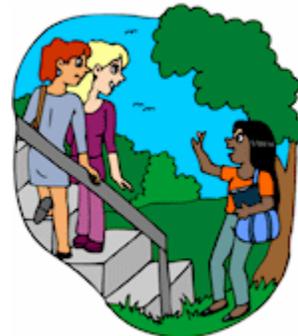
This game shows us how sin attacks. Sin is always around us. We are faced with temptation every day. They never seem to go away. We can combat these evil things when we use our swords wisely. But what good is a dull sword? We must keep our swords sharp to be ready for battle.

How do we keep our swords sharp? *(To keep our swords sharp we need to read our Bible and let the Word of God become part of our lives.)*

# TEMPTATION RESISTANCE

Read the following stories, and then indicate how tempted you would be to do what it says.

1. Bridget was happy at her new school. Everyone treated her nice. That was until one day when she found out about a girl named Julie. Julie started to say bad lies about Bridget. Some of the other girls started to believe the lies. Bridget knew this had to stop. If you were Bridget, how tempted would you be to do something to get back at Julie?



Circle one: not at all maybe a little pretty much a whole lot



2. Jamie always did very well in school. He was a quick learner and usually got high marks on his report card. Today, he woke up and remembered that there was going to be an important test. However, he forgot to study. Jamie knew that if he pretended to be sick, he could study and take the test tomorrow. If you were Jamie, how tempted would you be to pretend to be sick, so you could study and get a better grade on the test?

Circle one: not at all maybe a little pretty much a whole lot

3. Owen and Isabella were excited about going camping. After setting up the tent, they decided to go for a morning hike. However, before long, they realized they were lost. They tried to find their way back, but instead went deeper into the woods. Now they had been lost for over 12 hours, and they were starving. A little farther, they found a cabin, and through the window saw a freshly baked loaf of bread on the table. The door was opened but no one was home. If you were Owen or Isabella, how tempted would you be to go inside and eat a little bread?



Circle one: not at all maybe a little pretty much a whole lot



4. Elena was only seven, but she felt older and more mature than other kids who were the same age. Although her mom told her not to watch scary movies at night, Elena thought it would be okay. Her mom said she might have nightmares, but she watched scary movies before and nothing bad happened. One night, Elena's mom had a headache and went to bed early. There just happened to be a scary movie on TV that Elena was dying to watch. If you were Elena, how tempted would you be to go ahead and watch the movie?

Circle one: not at all maybe a little pretty much a whole lot