

# Small Group Guide: The Attempted Seduction of Joseph

**Series:** The Story of Joseph: Seeing the Bigger Picture (Week 3)

**Scripture:** Genesis 39:1-18

## Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin your group time by inviting God's presence and asking Him to help you see the bigger picture in your current circumstances.

## Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

**Question:** Share about a time when doing the right thing seemed to make your situation worse rather than better. How did you respond?

## Review the Story (10 minutes)

Briefly recap Joseph's journey so far:

- Favored by his father
- Hated and forsaken by his brothers
- Sold into slavery
- Promoted in Potiphar's house
- Falsely accused after resisting temptation

**Discussion:** What stands out to you most about Joseph's response to his circumstances?

## Key Takeaways

### 1. God's Presence in Difficult Places

Joseph experienced God's favor even in slavery. The Lord was with him and caused him to prosper.

#### Discussion Questions:

- How do we recognize God's presence when we're in difficult circumstances?
- Can you share a time when you experienced God's blessing in an unexpected or difficult place?
- What does it mean that "the Lord was with Joseph" even though he was a slave?

### 2. The Anatomy of Joseph's Resistance

Joseph refused Potiphar's wife based on four key respects:

- Respect for his job responsibilities
- Respect for his boss

- Respect for his boss' wife
- Respect for God (the foundation of all other decisions)

**Discussion Questions:**

- Which of these four "respects" do you find most challenging in your own life?
- How does our respect for God influence our other relationships and responsibilities?
- Joseph asked, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" How does viewing temptation as sin against God change our perspective?

**3. Temptation Doesn't Stop After One Resistance**

The text says Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph "day after day." The attacks only intensified.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why do you think persistent temptation is so difficult to handle?
- What strategies help you resist temptation when it keeps coming back?
- How can we support each other when facing ongoing temptation?

**4. Doing Right Can Lead to Worse Circumstances**

Joseph's story went from good (promoted) to bad (harassed) to worse (falsely accused).

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why does God sometimes allow our circumstances to worsen even when we're doing the right thing?
- How do we maintain faith when obedience seems to lead to negative consequences?
- What does it mean to trust that "God's purpose is bigger than what we can see in our current circumstances"?

**Central Truth**

**"Temptation presents an opportunity to cling tightly to God's promises in the moment, rather than let them go."**

**Discussion Questions:**

- What promises of God are you clinging to right now?
- How does this perspective change the way you view temptation?
- What would it look like to see your current challenges as opportunities rather than obstacles?

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### 1. **Identify Your "Respects"**

- Write down the four areas of respect Joseph demonstrated
- Evaluate which area needs the most attention in your life
- Pray daily for strength to grow in that area

#### 2. **Create an Escape Plan**

- Like Joseph who fled, identify your recurring temptations
- Develop a specific plan for how you'll "flee" when tempted
- Share your plan with an accountability partner

#### 3. **Practice "Bigger Picture" Thinking**

- When facing difficulty this week, pause and ask: "What might God be doing that I can't see?"
- Journal about how your perspective shifts when you consider God's larger purposes
- Share your insights with the group next week

#### 4. **Memorize Scripture**

- Memorize Genesis 39:9: "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"
- Use this verse when facing temptation this week

## Reflection Questions for Personal Time

1. Are there areas where I've compromised because "it would be easier" than doing the right thing?
2. What temptations am I currently facing "day after day"? Am I resisting or giving in?
3. Do I truly believe God has a bigger purpose for my life than what I can currently see?
4. Where in my life do I need to demonstrate greater respect—for my responsibilities, for others, or for God?

5. What "garment" do I need to leave behind and flee from this week?

## Prayer Focus (15 minutes)

### Share and Pray:

- Share one area where you're currently facing temptation or difficulty
- Share one area where you need to see "the bigger picture"
- Pray for each person specifically, asking God to:
  - Give strength to resist ongoing temptation
  - Provide clarity to see His bigger purposes
  - Grant faith to keep doing right even when circumstances worsen
  - Surround each person with His presence like He was with Joseph

## Before Next Week

- Read Genesis 39:19-23 (Joseph in prison)
- Reflect on how Joseph continued to trust God even after being falsely accused
- Be prepared to share how you applied this week's challenge

## Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to group members who may be facing real temptation or false accusations
- Create a safe space for honest sharing without judgment
- Emphasize that resisting temptation is possible through God's strength, not our own
- Remind the group that seeing the bigger picture doesn't mean current pain isn't real—it means trusting God is working through it