

10 IN THE PRISON

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 39:2-4,7-9,13-21

CENTRAL truth

In today's lesson, we'll see how Joseph experienced suffering and temptation. Though Joseph walked in obedience to God, it came with a cost. Still the Lord's presence was with him and would be his source of power amid the pain. As readers, we can be encouraged that **God's presence empowers us to live in a way that honors Him**, even during difficult times.

key question

Joseph's obedience was costly. What might it cost us to walk in obedience?

Desiring to honor both his earthly master and his heavenly Master, Joseph rejected the advances of Potiphar's wife. Joseph's act of obedience to the Lord led to false accusations and imprisonment. As modern-day followers of Jesus, there will be situations where obedience to the one true God will cost us our reputation, opportunities, or relationships. However, we can trust that following God's will is always the best choice, even when it is costly.

keep in mind

- Responding to temptation is central to this week's teaching. It will be important for students to understand that sin (rebellion against God) is not in being tempted but in acting on that temptation. As students engage with the questions, do not be surprised if conversations about specific areas of temptation take place. Listen empathetically, challenge graciously, and point them to God's grace as the means for our obedience.
- For students (and adults) in our modern American context, costly obedience to Jesus can be a frightening thought. However, Joseph was not left to his own devices. Just as Joseph was empowered to walk in obedience when it was difficult, we receive that same help through God's Spirit.

application

As a group, how can we fight against temptation together?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students can feel empowered to ask the Holy Spirit to help identify areas of temptation and invite Him to give them strength to walk with the Lord in obedience.

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders have the opportunity to encourage students to see the Lord's presence as the source of our ability to live honorably and reject temptation.

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