



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 10: Accused?

Suggested Week of Use: May 5, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 39:7-21

News Story Summary

When wrestler Frank Chamizo recently lost a match that would have qualified him for the Paris Olympics, the defeat turned out to be painful for another reason. Chamizo, a two-time world champion and Olympic bronze medalist, is a Cuban national who competes for Italy. He lost the match when his opponent's coach challenged the judge's call that would have given him the winning points. Not only was Chamizo disappointed by the controversial call, but, according to him, he also had rejected a \$300,000 bribe to throw the match. He attributed the reversed ruling to "bribed and corrupt people." Noting his responsibility to honorably represent Italy, he said, "It's not easy to break my integrity." Chamizo will have another opportunity to qualify for the Olympics, and he vowed that he would continue speaking out against corruption in his sport.

For more about this story, search "Italian wrestler bribe."

Engage

To supplement Engage, share the story of wrestler Frank Chamizo and lead the group to consider alternate scenarios. Ask: *What if Frank Chamizo had not resisted temptation and accepted the bribe? Would he be better off? Why or why not?* Discuss responses. Ask: *What if Chamizo had declined the bribe but won the match because the judge's ruling was not challenged?* Again, discuss responses. Write "integrity" on the board and encourage volunteers to define the word. Point out that Frank Chamizo leaned into his integrity when he refused the bribe and when he reported it. Allow adults to share why their integrity is so important to them. Share that this session continues to examine the life of Joseph and focuses on his own temptation to compromise his integrity in Egypt.

Challenge

To supplement Challenge, write "No good deed goes unpunished" on the board. Enlist two volunteers, one to explain why the saying is true and the other to explain why it's not. After the volunteers have stated their cases, allow other adults to share their thoughts. Point out that whether it's true or not, God expects His people to live with integrity and to do what's right every chance they get. Remind the group of how Frank Chamizo worked to safeguard his integrity. Encourage them to compare his actions to the steps that Joseph took to protect his integrity. Direct the group to think about a temptation to compromise that they might be facing. Remind them of this session's summary statement: *Pure living brings honor from God.* Challenge them to lean into His strength when they face temptation.