

These questions are for the October 2, 2026, message, “Resisting Temptation” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 39:1-23) out loud.

Passage Outline

We are strengthened to be loyal to God when we . . .

1. See the big picture: God is sovereign. (1-6a)
 - a) Temptation #1: Joseph’s early success. He assumes only more success will come.
 - b) His blessing is not success, but that “God was with Him” (Psalm 16:11).
 - 1) Resist every temptation to compare (to others or your former self).
 - 2) Savor and treasure the life, joy and pleasures experienced in God’s presence.
2. Make specific plans: build one fire. (6b-10)
 - a) Temptation #2: secret immorality. She assumes “no one will know.”
 - b) Joseph, “refused” the temptation to sin.
 - 1) He knew the sin would destroy his life.
 - 2) He took drastic steps to eliminate the sin.
3. Expect opposition: God means it for good (11-18).
 - a) Joseph was falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned as a result of his refusal to sin.
 - 1) He was more blessed in jail + obedience than in the mansion + disobedience.
 - 2) Sometimes the decision to honor God brings negative results in this world.
 - b) Let this help you see Jesus! He was tempted about bread & kingdoms, bringing victory.
4. Remain convinced: having God is better (19-23).
 - a) Temptation #3: embittered toward God when negative results seem to endure.
 - 1) Joseph in jail for 13 years. He lost his family, home and freedom.
 - 2) But he had the presence of God.
 - b) Through this testing and Joseph’s hardships, God is proving Joseph, not punishing him.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you “see the big picture”? How have afflictions, disappointments and sorrows taught you to savor the presence of God as your greatest treasure?
2. Based on #2, above: Joseph refused. He identified the temptation as something which cost him everything, and made the decision to never compromise. Is there a temptation to sin in your life which God has helped you refuse? How might a sin cost you everything?
3. Based on #2, above: We won’t resist sin only with self-discipline. We need the “fire” of loving God to fuel us. What fences have you set in place? (Such as personal convictions, borders, limits, disciplines.) How is your fire of love for God fueled by God’s love for you in Jesus?
4. Based on #3, above: Obedience to God does not always bring immediate earthly benefits, but it always keeps us close to God. How is God teaching you that He is near you while you wait?
5. Based on #4, above: Have you ever persisted in a season of being embittered toward God because you were frustrated with your current circumstance? How does Joseph help us?