

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 12: God's People Live for Him

Unit 12 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Should God's People Live?

They Should Live Like Jesus!" *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

Unit 1 Bible Verse and Song: Ephesians 5:1-2

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 10:
God's People Say "No" to Temptation*

Temptation is thinking about doing something wrong. It isn't wrong to be tempted, but it is wrong to say "yes" to temptation and go ahead and do what you are tempted to do. That is sinning. All of God's people are tempted to do wrong. Sin in their hearts whispers to them to disobey God. Sin in the world around them looks attractive to them. Even Satan works to tempt God's people to forget God's good ways and to sin. Jesus, God's very own Son, was tempted to sin in every way as we are, but He never sinned. Sometimes Often it's very hard to say "no" to temptation. God promises to always provide His people a way out of temptation without sinning. He gives them His Word to remind them of Himself, His good commands and His power to help them. He gives them the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them to turn away from tempting sin. But even when God's people do give into temptation and sin, He graciously forgives them through Jesus. Praise God for being so merciful!

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 10 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

CASE STORY

Genesis 37,39,45,50

Our story is called: The Case of the Handsome "No" Man.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was the handsome "no" man?
2. What made him a "no" man? Who helped him be a "no" man?

This story takes place in Old Testament times, about 1900 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Nine, young men sat eating their lunch and watching their sheep and goats on the green hills of Dothan. Suddenly, they stood up and began waving and yelling. A caravan of merchants with their camels was passing by, headed to Egypt with their goods.

"Stop! We have something to sell you!" the young men shouted. "A fine, young, man slave! Only seventeen years old! We have him trapped in this cistern. Come, let us show you what we have!" they urged.

The Ishmaelite merchants, with their turbans and glittering earrings, got down off their camels and came to hear more. There was always a market for a fine slave in Egypt. "Show us what you have and we'll consider making you an offer," they replied to the young men.

The young men grabbed their struggling prisoner, lifting him out of the muck at the bottom of the cistern, and forcing him to stand before the merchants.

"He's good," the merchants admitted. "We'll give you twenty shekels of silver for him. That's the going price for slaves these days—more money than most men make in two years. Take it or leave it," they offered.

"We'll take it!" the young men agreed.

One of the merchants weighed out the twenty shekels of silver and handed it over to the young men. A neck iron and shackles were clamped around the young man's neck and feet. He was their slave now.

"Stop! You can't do this!" the young boy insisted. "I'm no slave! I'm their brother! Judah, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Levi, Simeon, Naphtali, Asher, Zebulun! Please, don't do this to me! Don't let them take me away!" he begged. But it was no use. For years these brothers had watched their father Jacob spoil little brother Joseph. Special praise, special attention, even a special royal robe. All these were Joseph's. Now the brothers were getting their revenge. As the caravan of camels disappeared in the distant south,

they planned how to cover up their evil deed. "Joseph is gone for good! We will dip his coat in blood and tell father that some ferocious animal ate him. And that will be the end of our problems with this brother of ours!"

There was very little Joseph could do but cough through the clouds of dust kicked up by the camels' feet and think, as he walked the three hundred miles to Egypt. Think about his home and his father: would he never see them again? Think about the life of a slave that lay before him: would he wind up in the terrible copper mines like many did? Think about the terrible things his very own brothers had done to him: how could they hate him so much?

Hard times bring great temptation. Joseph was tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope. But the LORD is greater than the hardest times and the greatest temptations. He will always provide a way for His people to stand up under them and keep on trusting in Him. The LORD was with Joseph. Instead of allowing him to become bitter or worry or give up, He helped Joseph to trust Him. Instead of being sent to the terrible copper mines to work, like most Egyptians slaves, the LORD directed Potiphar, the very captain of Pharaoh's guards, to buy Joseph.

Potiphar made Joseph one of his household slaves. The LORD blessed everything Joseph did and Potiphar noticed. Soon, he put Joseph in charge of everything he owned and watched the LORD begin to bless everything he owned. Potiphar relaxed with Joseph in the only thing he worried about is what was for dinner!

Hard times can bring great temptations, but so can good times, as Joseph soon found out. Potiphar's wife noticed how strong and handsome Joseph and she became attracted to him.

"Be my special boyfriend," she began to ask him, day after day.

Perhaps Potiphar's wife was beautiful. Perhaps Joseph was only there in Egypt, far from family and home. It might have been very tempting to have her for his special girlfriend. But God was with Joseph. He helped Joseph remember His laws and how He wanted His people to live. He gave him strength to say "no."

"No, I won't be your special boyfriend!" he told her. "Potiphar, your husband, trusts me with everything he owns. Only you has he kept from me because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against him and God?" he told her.

But Potiphar's wife refused to leave Joseph alone. One day, when only Joseph and her were at home, she caught him by the cloak and said, "Come be my special boyfriend right now!"

With no one else at home to see what they did, perhaps Joseph could be tempted to sin. But no! Maybe no humans could see what they did, but Joseph knew that the LORD was there and He saw all things. Joseph wanted to please Him most of all and to say "no" again. He ran straight out the door and away from her.

Joseph had fled temptation, but not trouble. Potiphar's wife had grabbed his cloak and kept it. When her husband came home she held it up and told him, "That Hebrew slave Joseph tried to make me his special girlfriend while you were away! When I screamed for help, he ran away but left his cloak!" she lied.

Potiphar believed her and turned on Joseph. Hard times had come to Joseph once more, yet God was with him, helping him and giving him strength. Egyptian law gave Potiphar the right to kill Joseph, but instead he chose to have him thrown in jail. And Joseph, who could have been tempted to be bitter, to worry and to give up hope, kept trusting in the LORD, even in jail.

Joseph kept saying "no" to temptation and kept trusting the LORD all seven years he sat in that prison. The LORD proved worthy of Joseph's trust, as He always does. Pharaoh learned of Joseph and the great ways that the LORD was with him. He had Joseph released from prison and made him the prime minister over everything in all of Egypt.

As Pharaoh's most important helper, Joseph was blessed with great power and many riches. He would have anything he wanted and do anything he wanted. Great temptations come with great blessings. Would Joseph become proud and forget the LORD with his new life? No, he would not. Joseph kept on loving and living for the LORD. He kept on trying to be a "no" man-- saying "no" to the temptation to sin.

Of all the temptations Joseph had to say "no" to, none was more tempting than when, many years later, he met his brothers again. A terrible famine had come upon Canaan, back at home. There was nothing to eat and so they had come to Egypt to buy food there. Joseph's brothers didn't recognize their brother in his splendid Egyptian clothes, but he knew them. After all they had done to him; surely it

would have been tempting for Joseph to get back at them now. With only a snap of his fingers, Joseph could have had guards kill them.

But God was with Joseph, giving him a way out of even his greatest temptation. He gave Joseph a merciful heart. He gave Joseph wisdom to understand that He had allowed this to happen to him that he might go ahead of his people and prepare a place for them during the years of the famine.

How terrified his brothers were when this great Prime Minister of Egyptian revealed who he really was: "I am Joseph, your brother you sold into slavery."

They trembled before him, expecting Joseph to give into the temptation to take revenge. How shocked they were when he showed them mercy instead: "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your families," he reassured them.

And Joseph was as good as his word. He took the care of them all until the day he died.

Our Bible Truth is:

God's People Say "No" to Temptation

Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out, so you can stand up under it."

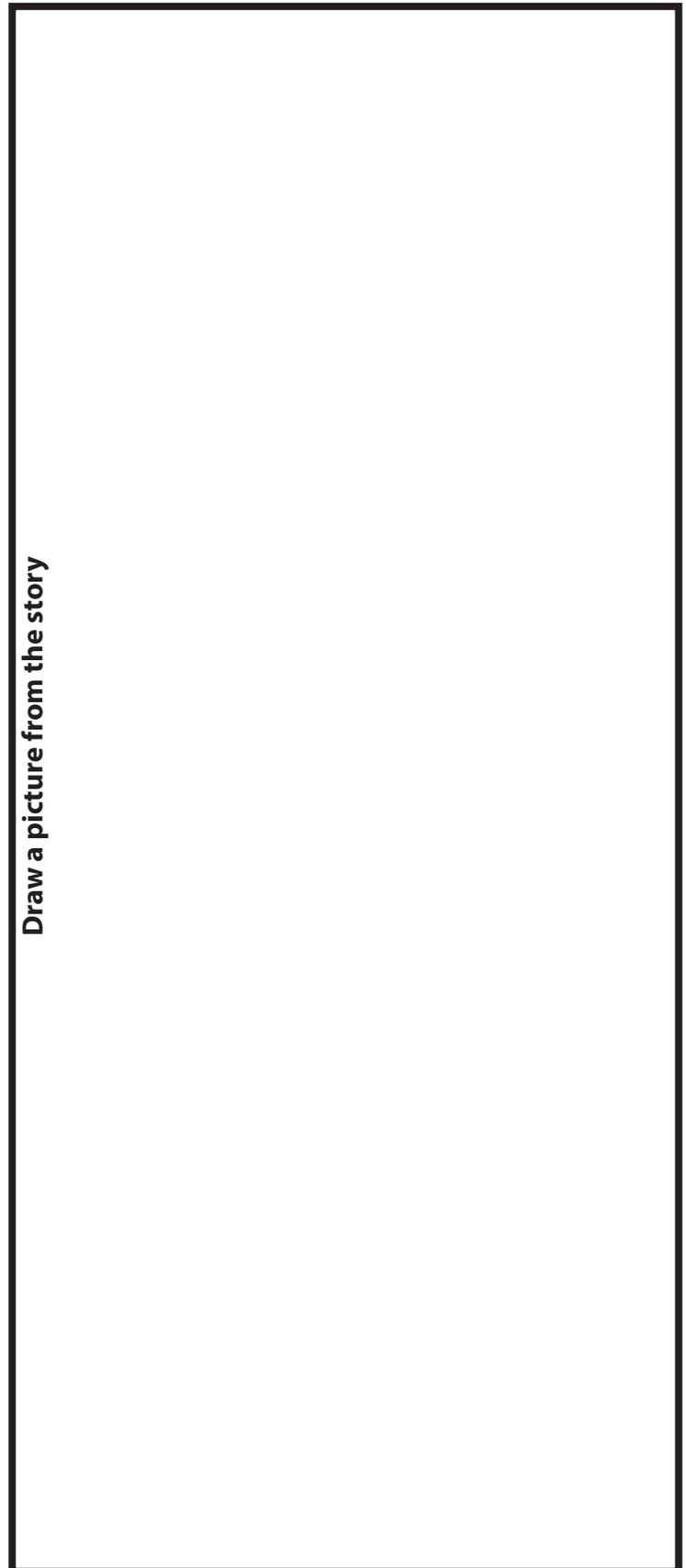
Hard times and good times both brought great temptations to Joseph. But the LORD was with Joseph and helped him stand up under each temptation.

What about you and me? Perhaps we don't face things as hard or as good as what Joseph faced, but each day we are tempted to sin, just like he was. Like Joseph, God's people today can trust in the LORD. They can depend on Him to be with them and provide them a way out of every temptation.

How can we become God's people? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

Let's praise God for promising to always be with His people, helping them in every temptation. Let's ask Him to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Let's ask Him to be with us as He was with Joseph, helping us to remember

the truth of His good ways, showing us the way to stand up under every temptation, and giving us hearts that desire to please Him most of all.



Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 Being tempted to do wrong is a sin.
Answer: False. It is a sin to give into temptation, not to be tempted.

2. Crack the Case Questions:
a. Who was the handsome “no” man?
Answer: Joseph.

b. What made him a “no” man? Who helped him be a “no” man?
Answer: He always tried to say “no” to temptation. The LORD helped Joseph be a “no” man by giving him strength and providing a way out of each temptation so he could stand up under it.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 Corinthians 10:13
 “No temptation has ___ you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: He will not let you be ___ beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way ___, so you can stand up under it.”
Answers: seized; tempted; out.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 29

Verse 1
 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
 That calls me from a world of care
 And bids me at my Father’s throne
 Make all my wants and wishes known!
 In seasons of distress and grief,
 My soul has often found relief,
 And oft escaped the tempter’s snare
 By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Words: William Walford Music: William B. Bradbury

God’s people know that they don’t have the strength to face the hard things of this world alone. Many sad things, many scary things, many tempting things may come their way. When they do, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. The temptation to turn away from God and do things their own way may be strong. But, God’s people know who to go to receive the strength they need. They pray to their Heavenly Father who loves them so much! They tell Him all their problems. They ask for His help. He comforts them and gives them what they need to keep trusting in Him and to turn away from the temptation to sin.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being the Perfect Planner of Everything in the Lives of Your People. We praise You for being the Provider of All We Need to Say No to Temptation.

C God, we confess that often we do not ask You to show us a way out of sin. Too many times we choose to sin because we want to do something even more than to love and obey You. We need a Savior!

T God, we thank You for Your promises to always provide a way out for us when we face temptation. We thank You that You never give us more than we can bear.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Help us to say “no” to sin. Help us to love You most of all.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

No Temptation Has Seized You
PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 30

Refrain:
 No temptation has seized you
 except what is common to man.
 And God is faithful,
 He will not let you be tempted
 beyond what you can bear.

But when you are tempted He’ll also provide,
 Also provide a way out.
 Yes, when you are tempted he’ll also provide,
 A way out so you can stand up under it. *Refrain*

First Corinthians Chapter Ten, verse thirteen.

Words: 1 Corinthians 10:13, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

Long ago, Moses met with the LORD and sometimes would actually glow with God’s glory. Sometimes he would wear a veil that would cover up God’s glory when he was with the people. Moses’ face may have sometimes shown with God’s glory, but God’s people have His Holy Spirit inside them. God doesn’t want them to hide His glory--they are not to veil His work in their lives, but show it to all. The Holy Spirit works inside them and transform them. He helps them to