



Lesson One: Tackling the Truth about Human Trafficking (Middle School/High School)

Lesson Themes

- Various forms of slavery have existed throughout history.
- The END (the work of God) does not justify the MEANS (Joseph being sold into slavery). Every person has value in God's eyes.
- Human trafficking is more prevalent today than we realize.
- God is able to work in and through terrible situations.

Theme Verse

Genesis 37:26-27 (NKJV) – “What profit *is there* if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh.”

Genesis 37:26-27 (NLT) – “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime. ²⁷ Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!”

Lesson/Bible Study Discussion

Brief Explanation of 'How' to Lead a Bible Study Discussion Group

- This discussion guide is designed for just that... discussion. When I lead discussion group Bible studies, I do not have answers anywhere in the material, nor do I use a leader's guide with all the answers written in.
- This is INTENTIONAL! I believe that the discipleship process should be an encounter with God, not just listening to someone else tell you what words to write down to fill in the blanks.
- Our goal is to help you facilitate discovery learning for your students. As the questions are asked, every participant (including the leader) is required to search God's Word to discover the appropriate morsel of truth. When facilitators are 'armed' with all the answers, they are less likely to allow the time needed for individuals to process the question and formulate an answer.
- Don't be afraid of silence! That discovery process is the key to the success or failure of this process. It is in those moments of silence that we stop teaching and the Holy Spirit takes over!
- We cannot forget what Jesus said in John 16:13: *"when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."*
- A "Lesson Commentary" has been included with this packet. We encourage you to study the material contained in the commentary, but do not try to teach (aka lecture) your group from that material. Let it serve as a source of information for you to draw upon to help give context and perspective to the group discussion.
- For a deeper look at the issues presented herein, please look at the "Judges – Teacher's Guide" or listen to the corresponding sermons (www.templerogers.org/obe/judges_resources/)
- For a deeper discussion of how to lead an inductive style, Bible discussion group, please download the "Leading Small Group Bible Studies" resource by clicking [HERE](#).

Ice-Breaker Options

OPTION #1: GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Approximately 5-15 minutes.
- Since this is the first class meeting, it might be profitable to spend a few minutes giving the students an opportunity to get to know one another.
- There are a multitude of options available online. I encourage you to do a Google search for “Getting to Know You Class Activities.”

OPTION #2: FAMILY ROLE-PLAY

- Approximately 15 minutes.
- You will need “Lesson 1 – Family Scenarios” worksheet.
- Divide the group into 4 groups, or *family units*. Then give each group one of the scenarios to discuss and act out in front of the others. Each group will have 5 minutes to prepare and then 2 minutes to share.

Discussion Guide

Joseph’s Dysfunctional Family

Joseph came from what we would describe as a dysfunctional family.

Joseph’s father—a man named Jacob—had four wives. From these wives, he was the father of twelve sons and at least one daughter. In your experience, how easy is it to deal with step siblings?

The Bible tells us that Jacob treated Joseph in a very special way—he was treated as the favorite child. Why did Joseph receive this special treatment? How did this affect his relationship with his brothers?
(Genesis 37:3-4)

Joseph's brothers had another reason to be irritated because of him.

According to Genesis 37:2, what had Joseph done to annoy his brothers? How was their attitude toward Joseph?

In Genesis 37:5-11, the Bible explains that Joseph had a couple of special dreams that had hidden meanings. What were these dreams and what did they represent? What was the reaction of his brothers to this?

Joseph's Disastrous Fate

One day, Jacob asked Joseph to go check on his brothers who were out in the wilderness with Jacob's sheep. What was their reaction to seeing Joseph coming toward them? Why would they react so strongly?

Read Genesis 37:18-24. What did Joseph's brothers want to do to him?

Read Genesis 37:25-28. When they saw the Ishmaelite slave traders, what did they decide to do with their brother?

The Morality of Slavery and Value of Human Life

Was it right or wrong for Joseph's brothers to sell Joseph as a slave? Why? What does the Bible say about the value of human life? (Consider Genesis 1:24-31; Psalm 8; Psalm 139:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

We are all familiar with the issue of slavery and the division that it caused here in our country in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that as of January 1, 1863, all slaves in the rebellious states "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." Did that end all slavery in the United States of America? If not, when did it end?

The reality is that slavery still exists today! Statistics vary, but it is safe to say that there are millions of people in the world today that live as slaves. "There are more slaves now than at any other time in human history." (Source: www.wearefree.us) (For more information download some of the information packets at https://www.templerogers.org/ministries/obe/joseph_resources/)

Read Galatians 3:28. What is the Bible's perspective on a person's position and value in this life?

The Sovereignty of God over Human Life

Joseph was only 17 years old when his brothers sold him into slavery.

Imagine the anxiety and bitterness he must have experienced. Now read Genesis 50:18-20. How was Joseph able to have this attitude toward his brothers after all they had done to him?

The Bible tells us that trials and difficulties will come in our lives (Matthew 5:10-12; James 1:2-4) but that God will use all things to work for His good (Romans 8:28). What do you think about that? Is God able to take all the bad things in our lives and bring about His glory?

Lesson 1 – Family Scenarios

Instructions

Assign a family member role to each member of your group, and plan one of two role-plays. The first role-play option can demonstrate the way you think the family would most likely react. The second role-play can demonstrate, with humor, a disastrous family response. At the end of each role-play, have each person freeze into a pose that represents how that family member feels.

The Job Offer

Imagine that the members of your group all belong to the same family. An adult member of that family has been offered a new job a thousand miles away. The adult is delighted at the idea of moving and thinks that other family members should feel the same way. Others are not so sure.

The Relative

Imagine that the members of your group all belong to the same family. An elderly relative has become ill and wants to move in with you to avoid going to a nursing home. Everybody in the family likes this relative, but the change will not be easy. What will happen? What are some factors that make the situation vary from family to family?

The Keys

Imagine that the members of your group all belong to the same family. The family has one car, and one member of the family has just lost the keys so nobody can go anywhere. The keys are under the couch in the living room, but nobody knows that yet. What will happen?

The Fight

Imagine that the members of your group all belong to the same family. The family has one television set. Two members of the family have spent weeks looking forward to different shows that are scheduled at the same time. What will happen?