



South Sub Church

June 21, 2026

“When Integrity Costs You”

Genesis 39 [verses 1-12 (NLT) listed]

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. ²The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. ⁵From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master’s household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar’s household for Joseph’s sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. ⁶So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn’t worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat. Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. ⁸But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.” ¹⁰She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. ¹¹One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. ¹²She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, “Come on, sleep with me!” Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

Sermon Summary:

Life doesn’t always make sense in the moment. Betrayal, disappointment, temptation, loss, and waiting can leave us wondering where God is in the middle of it all. Yet the story of Joseph reminds us that even when all seems lost, God is still working behind the scenes - preparing us for purpose and revealing His greater plan. Join us as we walk through one of the most powerful stories in Scripture and discover how God can use every season of life to shape something bigger than we can see.

Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. What is a job or responsibility you had that taught you a valuable lesson?
2. Have you ever been trusted with something important? How did that make you feel?
3. Tell about a time when doing the right thing was difficult.
4. Who is someone you admire for their integrity, and why?
5. If you were suddenly placed in a completely new environment, what would be your biggest challenge?



Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. To whom was Joseph sold in Egypt?
2. What position did Potiphar hold in Pharaoh's government?
3. Why did Potiphar place Joseph in charge of his household?
4. What happened to Potiphar's household because of Joseph?
5. How is Joseph's appearance described in the chapter?
6. Who attempted to seduce Joseph?
7. What reason did Joseph give for refusing Potiphar's wife's advances?
8. What item did Joseph leave behind when he fled from Potiphar's wife?
9. What accusation did Potiphar's wife make against Joseph?
10. Where was Joseph sent after Potiphar heard his wife's story?

Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. What does the repeated phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" teach us about God's presence during difficult circumstances?
2. Why do you think Joseph viewed giving in to temptation as both a sin against God and a betrayal of Potiphar?
3. What can we learn from Joseph's decision to flee rather than stay and argue with temptation?
4. Why might God have allowed Joseph to suffer imprisonment even though he did the right thing?
5. How does Joseph's experience in prison prepare him for what God will do later in his life?

Application questions (life response):

1. What temptations do Christians face today that require the same kind of integrity Joseph demonstrated?
2. How can you remind yourself that God is with you during unfair or difficult situations?
3. Is there an area of your life where you need to "run from" temptation instead of trying to manage it?
4. How can you remain faithful when doing the right thing leads to negative consequences?
5. What practical steps can you take this week to honor God in your workplace, school, home, or relationships like Joseph did?