

DETOURS

DETOURS, PART 2: DEVELOPMENT

As we continue to study Joseph's story, and the detours God took him on, notice how God uses detours in our own lives to bring us closer to Him. Sometimes detours take longer than we hoped for, but remember that the Lord has a purpose and a reason for them and that we can trust His timing.

BIG IDEA: God cares more about the development of the dreamer than the realization of the dream.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been on a detour that led to another detour? Maybe an alternate route that had a repair or accident on it that required yet another change of route? Explain.
2. Chris said that *"Detours are good things that often feel bad."* When we read the story of Joseph, we always have to remember where the story is going—Genesis 50:20

But Joseph said, "You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened." Genesis 50:20 (TEV)

3. Joseph is going to continue to have things that happen to him that look bad or evil from the outside, but God is with him and is setting him up to do amazing good for his family and the people of Egypt. Share a time where something happened to you that seemed bad at the time, but ultimately ended up doing good.
4. Last week, we learned that ***The purpose of detours is to develop you for what God has for you.*** Today, we're going to see the pattern that God used to develop Joseph. First, detours always involve a **test**. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 2 Chronicles 31:31:*

God did this to test him, to find out everything that was in his heart. 2 Chronicles 32:31 (GWORD)

5. What is the purpose of tests found in 2 Chronicles 32:31?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 5:3-4.* God uses 3 difficult things to develop us. What are they? What 3 things is God trying to develop in us?

We can rejoice when we run into problems, tests and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

7. Has there ever been a time where God has repeated a situation to get your attention? Share your experience with the group.
8. God used patterns to develop Joseph. First, detours always involve a **test**. Second, detours involve **training**. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 39:1-6.*

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. The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. From 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. So 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!
Genesis 39:1-6 (NLT)

9. Chris said that, “Joseph has many reasons to believe that God has abandoned him,” but we are reminded how many times in Genesis 39 that, “God is with Joseph?”
10. Joseph represented God well with his work. Do you represent Jesus well at your work?
11. How do you think Potiphar noticed that God was with Joseph?
12. If you want BIG opportunities? Then you better make the most with those SMALL decisions. Sweat the small stuff! God used the training of Joseph—being second in command of Potiphar’s household—to develop him to one day become second in command of all of Egypt. And it all started with the small details. What small things happening in your life might you be overlooking that God is trying to develop you for something bigger?
13. God used patterns to develop Joseph. Detours always involve a **test**. Detours involve **training**. And detours always involve **temptation**. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Genesis 39:6-20.*

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No 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.” She 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. One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. She 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. When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. “Look!” she said. “My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me.” She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. Then she told him her story. “That Hebrew slave you’ve brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me,” she said. “But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!” Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife’s story about how Joseph had treated her. So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king’s prisoners were held, and there he remained. But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love.

Genesis 39:6-21 (NLT)

14. *When we are the most successful, we are often the most vulnerable to sexual temptation.* Read Genesis 39:19-20. Does this verse tell us if Joseph had the opportunity to tell his side of the story?
15. What happened to Joseph as a result of this accusation?
16. How do you think Joseph felt knowing he had made a moral decision but seemingly wound up worse off because of it?”
17. Have you ever done something that was the righteous thing to do in the sight of God but you suffered as a result of it? What lessons did you learn from that experience?
18. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.* When

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 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 that you can stand up under it.
1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (NIV)

19. Many people falsely believe the phrase “God won’t give you more than you can handle.” That is never found in the Bible. What does 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 teach us?

MOVING FORWARD

God cares more about the development of the dreamer than the realization of the dream. He is more interested in developing your character and integrity so that when the opportunities arise, your character can handle it. God wants to develop the person before He gives you the purpose.