

Study Series: Detours

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Lesson Title: “Their Perspective and Peace” (pp. 83-95)

Session 7

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The main point of this lesson is:The proper perspective while on God’s detours allows believers to have peace.

Focus on this goal:To help adults make God the focus of their lives, even on their detours, that they might experience His peace before arriving at their destiny

Key Bible Passage:Genesis 41:16; 45:5-9; 50:20

To the Leader: Remember to retain and display from Session 1 the map and poster you began.

Before the Session

On a board, write I am completely focused when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. and I struggle to focus when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Step 1)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

As learners arrive, invite them to consider the prompts on the board and how they might personally fill in the blanks. This doesn’t need to be spiritual in nature; an appropriate answer might be, “I am completely focused when I watch my favorite college football team. I struggle to focus when I have an early-morning meeting.”

After a few learners have shared, ask: What kinds of things help you to focus? (Calming music, coffee, etc.) What do you do to be spiritually focused?

Explain that today’s session will wrap up Detours with one last lesson: focusing on God in the midst of our detours.

Step 2. The Perspective of Detours, Part 1

Invite a volunteer to read Hebrews 12:1-2.

Ask: Upon what was Jesus focused when He endured the cross and shame? According to this instruction, upon what should we have our focus?

Direct attention to the map. Point to where you are and choose a location directly west (or east). Say: If I’m headed to this destination, my focus is on going west. As long as I am mindful of that destination, even a detour will not deter me.

Read the two Day One paragraphs (pp. 83-84) that begin with the word, “Perspective.”

Engage learners in discussing the definition and concept.

Write Perspective and Focus on the key word poster.

Step 3. The Perspective of Detours, Part 2

Invite volunteers to read Genesis 41:16 and 45:5-9.

Engage learners in observing that Joseph realized God’s hand in every situation; at some point, his perspective changed from “Look what happened to me” to “Look what God is doing.”

Read Psalm 73:23, pointing out that the psalmist was resolved to be with God, trusting He would hold, guide, and protect him.

Say: Joseph did the same thing: he clung to God.

Read the Day Two paragraph (p. 87) that begins, “All Joseph had was God,” and the following paragraph.

Say: Sometimes we do not see God clearly in our detours; other times, He removes all distractions—like Joseph in the dungeon—so that we have the proper perspective: He is working.

Step 4. The Peace of Detours, Part 1

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 50:20.

Using the comments from Day Three (pp. 88-89), explain how bringing God into the center of our hardship changes everything.

Add Evil. God. Good. to the key word poster. Point to the fact that “God” is in the center of “evil” and “good.” Stress that only when we put Him in the center of our lives will we see the redemption and provision only He can provide through our darkest times.

Cover up “God” and say: Taking God out of the equation removes the good that comes from it.

Read through the end of Day Three, starting with the paragraph (p. 89) that begins, “If God is ….”

Step 5. The Peace of Detours, Part 2

Invite a volunteer to read Philippians 4:11-13. Explain that Paul had found himself in every situation: shipwreck, stoning, beatings, and more.

Say: Paul and Joseph had learned the same lesson: when we see that God is with us, we can be content in every—every!—situation.

Use comments in Day Four (pp. 90-92) to point out that the things we think will get us to our destiny—education, planning, networking, and so forth—can be used by God, but they are not the only ways He can get us to our destiny.

Share an example from your life of when God opened a door based on nothing tangible.

Guide adults to read to themselves the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 92).

Ask: What does that kind of pit-obedience look lie? How does it differ from obedience when sailing is smooth?

Step 6. The Peace of Detours, Part 3

Invite a volunteer to read Galatians 5:22-23.

Read the first sentence of Day Five (p. 92): “If you want to get to your destiny, be fruitful where you are now.” Use the information in the rest of that paragraph—as well as the one following—to talk about what that fruitfulness looks like and how it reveals the Spirit in us.

As a group, discuss the author’s point (p. 93) about bouncing back: we know God is working on our behalf because every time it looks like we will fall, we bounce back.

Read Psalm 18:18, encouraging learners to lean on God as their support during calamity and confrontation.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Explain that today ends the study taken from the book, Detours.

Invite any volunteers to share their lasting thoughts, impressions, or takeaways.

Consider the terms on the key words poster.

Point to the map and say: Let’s think about this study every time we pick up a map or enter a destination in our mapping software: God plans the path, the detours, and our destiny.

Close in prayer, thanking God for His detours.

