Footprints of Faith

Testimony and Perseverance Through Temptation

Lesson Four: The Wisdom to Keep Your Distance

Facilitator Guide

Purpose: Develop a respectful boundary that protects a commitment and includes a constructive alternative.

Readings: Genesis 39:7–12; 2 Timothy 2:22; Proverbs 4:14–15.

Opening question: Why does keeping distance from the edge support the mountain journey?

Conducting the lesson

1. Identify Joseph's commitment. Read his refusal and departure. Ask what trust and responsibility his action protects.

2. Consider realistic distance. Note Joseph's position as a servant. Discuss how shared duties may limit available distance and make additional help necessary.

3. Connect departure with pursuit. Read Second Timothy and Proverbs. Identify what is pursued after leaving rather than describing a boundary only as deprivation.

4. Practice respectful wording. Use the group-setting illustration. Invite a simple boundary statement that does not insult, manipulate, or fabricate an excuse.

Discussion

1. What distinguishes a boundary from control of another person?

2. What constructive alternative could address a remaining need?

3. What should be reviewed before a boundary changes?

Application: Ask participants to identify what a boundary protects, how to communicate it, and an alternative that supports its purpose.

Close: Explain that distance can express faithfulness. Preserve the distinction between a proposed boundary and one already practiced.

Facilitator reminder: Do not encourage deliberate exposure to prove strength. Consider genuine duties alongside boundaries.