

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

SERIES OVERVIEW FOR ONE CHARGE: Lessons in Kingdom from the Life of Joseph

God doesn't just save us; He also sends us out to rule on His behalf. This is our one charge. The same God who lives in close relationship with us through covenant relationship also calls us to the responsibility of representing Him by exercising the Kingdom authority and power which He gives us. We are charged to be ambassadors and emissaries who represent our King in the world. And as we live out this one charge by being in charge thanks to God's authority and power, we will see God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

"ONE CHARGE" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Visions of Greatness (Genesis 37:1-11) |** As we begin our journey through Joseph's life to see the one charge God gave him, we begin with his visions of greatness. While Joseph's visions were God-given, he treated them as prizes for himself instead of a gift for others. We need to learn from Joseph's mistakes and treat authority as a responsibility, not merely as a reward.
- **Session 2 – Depths of Despair (Genesis 37:12-36) |** Joseph's visions of greatness left him in the depths of despair, as his mistakes and the jealousy of his brothers left him with deep brokenness. However, we see in his story that brokenness is actually a part of what helps us accept the one charge God gives us because brokenness prods us toward surrender. And even more importantly, God works through our brokenness to display His greatness.
- **Session 3 – Glimmers of Hope (Genesis 39:21-40:23) |** Even in the depths of despair, there were glimmers of hope in Joseph's story. As Joseph grew in humility and trust while he was in prison, he was learning how to completely surrender to God. His example shows us that we're not ready to rule until we surrender.
- **Session 4 – Seat of Power (Genesis 41:14-44) |** When we finally receive the power and responsibility to live out the one charge God gives us, we face a choice. Will we be power-hungry and use our power to oppress and take advantage of others? Or will we use our power to give instead of receive?

"ONE CHARGE" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

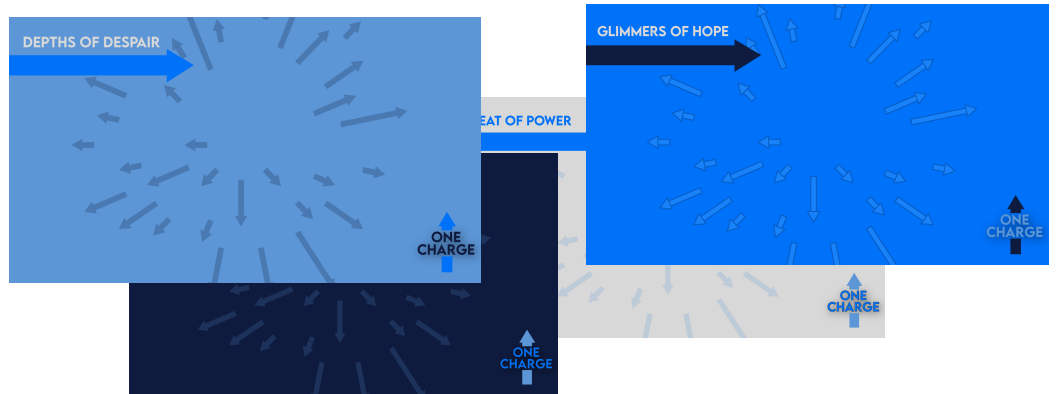
BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

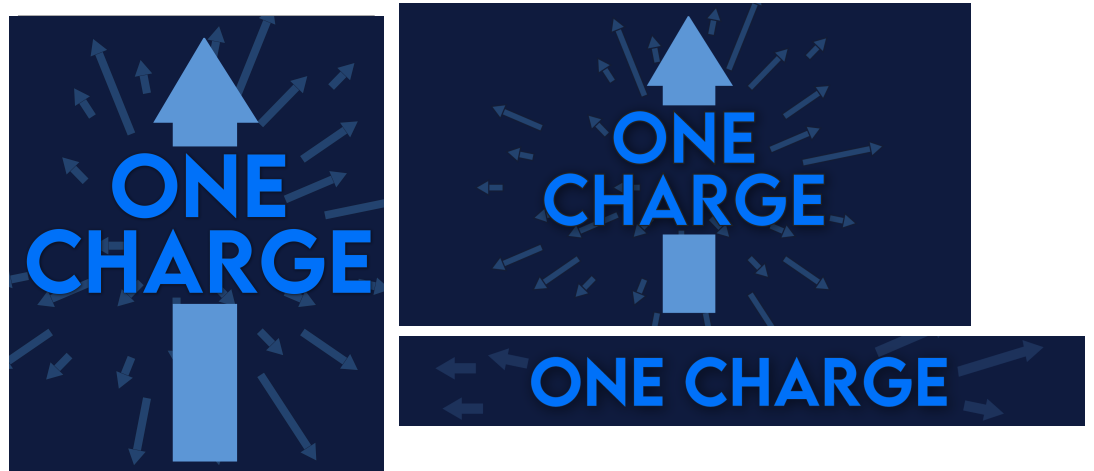
- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

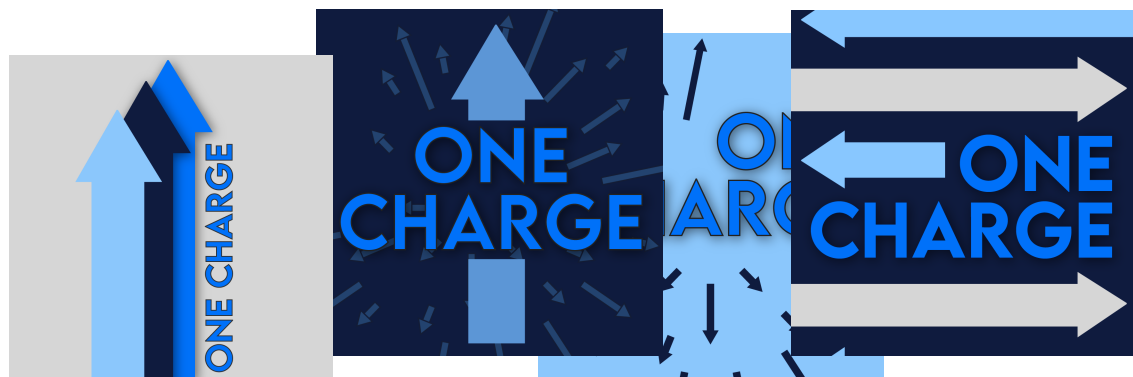
**BACKGROUND AND
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM
IMAGES**



**LOGO
TREATMENT**



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One Charge Sermon Series | Session 1: Visions Of Greatness

How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

A Prayer Before You Prepare | Heavenly Father, You are the Creator and Ruler of the universe. You hold all creation in Your hands. All authority and power belong to you, and You rule over us with steadfast loving-kindness. You are gracious, slow to anger, and You forgive our sins. Thank You for being exactly who You said You'd be! Thank You for Your overflowing grace and mercy! Help me to look more like Jesus so that You can be glorified through me. As I prepare to teach Your Word, fill me with Your wisdom. Help me to let go of any pride or ambition and let me say only what You would have me say. Speak through me so that the students who hear this sermon will come to know and love You more. Above all else, may You receive all the glory and praise! Amen.

One Charge Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

Series Snapshot | *One Charge* is a four-session sermon series that will explore four separate parts of the life of Joseph. This series will challenge your students' perspectives on power, authority, and their responsibilities in the Kingdom of God. They will learn that God has much more planned for their lives than they think and will be better equipped to handle the weight of God-given authority.

Series Overview | God doesn't just save us; He also sends us out to rule on His behalf. This is our one charge. The same God who lives in close relationship with us through covenant relationship also calls us to the responsibility of representing Him by exercising the Kingdom authority and power which He gives us. We are charged to be ambassadors and emissaries who represent our King in the world. And as we live out this one charge by being in charge thanks to God's authority and power, we will see God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

- **Session 1 - Visions of Greatness (Genesis 37:1-11)** | As we begin our journey through Joseph's life to see the one charge God gave him, we begin with his visions of greatness. While Joseph's visions were God-given, he treated them as prizes for himself instead of a gift for others. We need to learn from Joseph's mistakes and treat authority as a responsibility, not merely as a reward.
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One Charge Series | Session 1

Large Group Teaching Summary | As we begin our journey through Joseph's life to see the one charge God gave him, we begin with his visions of greatness. While Joseph's visions were God-given, he treated them as prizes for himself instead of a gift for others. We need to learn from Joseph's mistakes and treat authority as a responsibility, not merely as a reward.

Key Takeaway | Authority is a responsibility, not a reward.

Scripture Focus | Genesis 37:1-11

What You May Need | *Optional Illustration: Charged (Story), Optional Illustration: Spoiled (Story)*

I. Introduction

A. *Optional Illustration: Charged*

1. Dakota Meyer was a man with a charge. As a Marine, Dakota had pledged to uphold the United States Constitution. As part of this pledge, he was supposed to fight for and with his fellow soldiers, obey his commanding officers, and defend American interests around the world. But when Dakota was serving in Afghanistan, the various charges that he had came into conflict.
2. On his radio, he heard about a unit of American soldiers pinned down by a Taliban attack. Dakota asked his commanding officers to help those soldiers, but they refused. Dakota did not believe those orders matched his most vital charge to protect the lives of Americans like his fellow soldiers. So he took a Humvee into the killing zone to save those soldiers. Five trips later, Dakota had saved 13 Americans and 23 of their Afghani allies. Because of how he lived out one charge, even when other charges tried to stop him, Dakota was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor.
3. Dakota had many charges he was supposed to follow: his Marine oath, his personal moral code, his commanding officers, and more. But when those came into conflict, he chose one charge to follow — to protect his fellow soldiers. That one charge superseded all the others, and when he lived by this one charge, he acted in a way that saved lives.
4. We all have many charges in our lives as well. We are in charge of taking care of ourselves and others. We are in charge of working hard and learning well. We are in charge of protecting and helping our friends and family. But those of us who are Christians have one charge above all others — to represent God our King and His Kingdom.
5. The Bible reveals two themes that describe and explain the connection between God and His people — the themes of covenant and Kingdom. Covenant is about our relationship with God, while Kingdom is about the responsibility God gives us. JUST AS GOD GIVES US ONE LIFE IN COVENANT, HE GIVES US ONE CHARGE BY GIVING US THE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO BRING HIS KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH.

B. Welcome to a new series we're starting called *One Charge*.

1. In this series, we are going to learn that WE ARE CHARGED TO BE AMBASSADORS WHO REPRESENT OUR KING IN THE WORLD. And as we live out this one charge by being in charge thanks to God's authority and power, we will see God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.
2. We're going to be looking in the book of Genesis through the life of Joseph. We'll see how his visions of greatness were scuttled by pride so that he landed in the depths of despair, and we'll see that through his surrender to God, he found glimmers of hope that pointed to the seat of power he would ultimately hold.
3. LIKE JOSEPH, WE, TOO, HAVE ONE CHARGE. So let's begin the journey with Joseph to see how his visions of greatness remind us of the visions of responsibility and authority that God has given us as well.

II. Tension

A. *Optional Illustration: Spoiled*

1. Carla Wagner was profiled in *Time* magazine as the prototypical spoiled teenager. When Carla was 17, she spent an afternoon drinking tequila that she paid for with her American Express Gold Card, and after that, she took off in her new Audi. She was talking on her cell phone as she drove drunk, and she hit and killed another teenager who was rollerblading. When Carla went to court and was charged with drunken driving and manslaughter, her parents asked the judge if it was okay for their 17-year-old daughter to spend the summer in Paris as she usually did.
- B. When we hear the story of someone like Carla, we wonder just how spoiled a child can be. When people are placed in positions of power before they're ready or without knowing the responsibility that comes with it, terrible things often happen.
- C. That's the feeling that Joseph's brothers had about him. In a culture where the oldest child in a family was supposed to be favored, Joseph became the favored son, even though he was the 11th of 12 sons because he was the firstborn son of his father Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. Jacob even made his favoritism impossible to miss by giving Joseph a coat of many colors made with expensive fabrics. As we see how this favoritism played out in the family dynamic, we'll see how it led Joseph to take his visions of greatness in a prideful direction.

III. Scripture

- A. The book of Genesis tells the story of how God birthed the nation of Israel from one family. As we read the story of patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we see how God makes a covenant with this family and then gives this family one charge. Abraham's story is primarily a story of covenant, and Joseph's is mainly a story of Kingdom authority and responsibility.
- B. But as we go through Joseph's story from Genesis 37 to 50, we will discover that this Kingdom authority did not come easily. At the beginning of his story, Joseph was not ready to exercise the responsibility God was going to give him. Instead, as we see in today's passage, he was marked by immaturity and pride. Let's see how these character traits derailed Joseph's God-given visions of greatness.
- C. Read GENESIS 37:1-11
 1. Jacob's visions of greatness were God-given. We can clearly see that a position of authority and power was in Joseph's future. But something happened in this passage to derail that greatness right at the start. At age 17, Joseph wasn't mature enough to handle the visions of greatness God had given him. As a result, a family dynamic that was already strained became irreparably harmed. Joseph was his father's favorite, and that favoritism led to tension between Joseph and his older brothers.
 - a) "But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him." (v. 4).

Joseph made this situation worse with how he talked about his God-given dreams.

2. He bragged about his first dream to his brothers, telling them he would rule over them one day. As a result, they hated him even more. But Joseph wasn't done. When he had a second dream that indicated he would rule not only over his brothers but also over his father and mother, he once again bragged about it. This increased the jealousy among Joseph's brothers and even led Jacob to rebuke his favorite son.
 3. The visions of greatness Joseph had in this passage didn't lead to greatness. But it wasn't because they were made up. These dreams were from God! And we'll see as our series continues that they accurately portrayed what would happen in the lives of Joseph and his family. However, it's clear that Joseph did not react well to these God-given dreams. He used these dreams not as a way to glorify God but as a way to glorify himself.
 4. Joseph was immature, brash, and prideful about these dreams and what they said. He relished the thought of having authority over his brothers, and he used this idea to make himself feel more significant, and his brothers feel smaller. HE TREATED THE GREATNESS IN THESE VISIONS AS A REWARD FOR HIMSELF INSTEAD OF A RESPONSIBILITY. As a result, hatred and jealousy filled a family so deeply that it would take years to overcome.
- D. Joseph faced a choice in this passage that we all face even today. When God gave him visions of greatness, he could have used them for the benefit of others or his own. As we've seen, Joseph made the wrong choice. He took these visions of greatness and used them to push others down instead of helping them up. But we can live for the benefit of others if we acknowledge that AUTHORITY IS A RESPONSIBILITY, NOT A REWARD.

IV. Application

- A. God doesn't want us to just be believers. In His grace, He gives us a charge to become His representatives on earth. He gives us this Kingdom charge not to make us feel good, but as a part of His mission to let the Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. This means that THE AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND POWER GOD GIVES US IS NOT FOR US; IT'S FOR OTHERS.
- B. In other words, authority is a responsibility, not a reward. Joseph failed to recognize this at the beginning of his journey. When God sent dreams that gave Joseph visions of greatness, Joseph wanted to lord this greatness over his brothers and even his parents. As a result of that arrogance, Joseph's family fractured even more.
- C. And when we become part of God's Kingdom, and He sends us out with our charge, we're faced with a choice, just as Joseph was.
 1. YOU CAN USE YOUR POWER FOR YOUR BENEFIT
 - a) We're all given some sort of authority in our lives. We all have some type of influence in at least one area of our lives. Because of that, we all have to decide how to use that influence, and it's tempting to use it to our advantage to lift ourselves up. It's easy, and it feels good to reap the benefit of being in charge. But in the process of lifting ourselves up, we're usually putting others down.

2. OR YOU CAN USE IT TO SERVE OTHERS

- a) We may not get visions like Joseph's, but we all have our own visions. God never gives us visions of greatness merely as a prize. It is never something for us to keep ourselves. Instead, authority is a responsibility, not a reward. The visions of greatness God gives us should point us outward to serve others so that God's Kingdom can come in and around us.

V. Gospel

- A. In Matthew 20, Jesus Himself warns against what Joseph is guilty of doing here in Genesis 37. In that chapter, He says, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant..."
 1. And this isn't just something that Jesus talked about but didn't do. His whole life is an example of using His God-given authority to serve others instead of lifting Himself up.
- B. Jesus, the very Son of God, came down from Heaven and lived a human life. And although He was powerful enough to do anything He wanted, do you know what He chose to do? He chose to serve others. He chose to teach people, heal people, feed people, and not long before He was crucified, He washed His disciples' feet. He never did anything to lift Himself up even though He's God in the flesh. He even went so far as to give Himself up on the cross and die an excruciating death so that He could serve you and me.
 1. Jesus' charge was to defeat sin and death by taking the punishment for the whole world's sins because only He, only God, has the power to do that. Even though He had the power to save Himself from the cross, He knew His power wasn't just a reward to be used however He wanted. He used His power and authority to serve all of humanity, to save all of humanity.
- C. Now, we have the opportunity to say that we believe this is true. That Jesus has defeated sin and that we can be forgiven for all the things we've done. When we confess that we believe Jesus is the Son of God, ask forgiveness for our sins, and turn away from them, we become a part of the family of God.

VI. Conclusion

- A. When Joseph got a vision of greatness, he focused on how great it would be to be powerful. He chose to use this power for his own benefit. He relished the thought of reigning over others and controlling them. He didn't give much thought to how he could use his power to help others. Instead, he let pride and selfishness rule in his life.
- B. We'll see throughout the rest of Joseph's story how God corrected Joseph's thinking. We'll see how God led Joseph through brokenness and submission so that Joseph would use the authority God gave him for God's Kingdom purposes instead of his own.
- C. We need to learn the same lesson, but we don't have to learn it the hard way. Instead, as we see that AUTHORITY IS A RESPONSIBILITY, NOT A REWARD, we will responsibly use

One Charge Sermon Series | Session 1: Visions Of Greatness

the authority God gives us by using it for His Kingdom purposes instead of our own selfish desires.

D. Let's pray.

One Charge Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: Visions Of Greatness

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Scripture Focus | Genesis 37:1-11

One Charge | Session 1 Discussion Questions

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Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. If you could be entirely in charge of just one thing, what would it be? (For ex. your family, a business, a sports team, a country, etc.) What would you do?

Discussion Questions

1. Read Genesis 37:1-11. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. What are you in charge of right now? What dreams or ambitions do you have right now? These can be big or small; they all matter. Do you think of these as God-given? Why or why not? Why do you think God has given you these specific things?
3. Why do you think God gives us a charge once we become part of His Kingdom? Why do you think He wants us to take part in seeing His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven?
4. What responsibilities do you think come with the authority God gives us? Do those responsibilities sound more like chores to you? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think Jesus said that if we have positions of power, we should serve other people? Why do you think it's important to serve others instead of yourself?
6. Where in your life does pride have a foothold? Where in your life does your own ambition have a foothold? Why do you think you struggle in those areas? How can you improve in those areas?
7. How can you use your power and authority as responsibilities this week instead of rewards? How can you serve others? What step is God calling you to make this week?