

Bible Discovery

Supplies

- Bible
- “God Helps Joseph Interpret Dreams” Bible Story poster

 Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story tells about a man named Joseph who was in jail—but he hadn’t done anything wrong! Even though Joseph was being punished for something he didn’t do, he knew God was with him and God is good** (*no matter what!*). **Let’s talk in our Connect Crews.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- ❓ **Tell about a time you got in trouble.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Joseph definitely hadn’t done anything wrong, but he was still in trouble. But Joseph didn’t pout or feel sorry for himself. Instead, he worked hard while he was in jail—so hard the jailer put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners.

- ❓ **Tell about a time you worked hard and got a reward.** Invite a few responses from the whole group.

It feels good when our hard work makes a difference! Now back to Joseph. There were other people in the prison with Joseph. One man was a baker, and another man was a cup-bearer for the leader, Pharaoh. Act out their jobs with me.

- **Bakers make tasty bread.** Pretend to knead dough and then put it in the oven.
- **Cup-bearers tasted Pharaoh’s drinks first to make sure they were good.** Pretend to take a sip of a drink from a cup.

One night the baker and the cup-bearer each had a dream. Let’s read about it.

 Read aloud Genesis 40:5-7.

Let’s pretend we’re the sleeping baker and the cup-bearer. Do this with me.

- Lie down to sleep.
- Get up and stretch.
- Show upset or worried faces.

Joseph was a good friend to others, so he wanted to know why they were worried. When they told him about their dreams, Joseph said, “God will help us know what they mean. Tell me your dreams.” Let’s show what Joseph did. Do this with me.

- Pretend to pray.
- Cup a hand behind an ear as if listening for an answer.

Because **God is good** (*no matter what!*), God helped Joseph tell the baker and the cup-bearer what their dreams meant. Listen carefully and see if *you* know what the cup-bearer’s dream is really about!

Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.

 Read the verses from the Bible. You’re showing kids that God’s Word is special. Don’t worry—we’ve kept the verses short for young attention spans.



Read aloud Genesis 40:9-11.

Hmm. I'm stumped. I bet you are, too. But God helped Joseph, so Joseph knew! The dream meant that in three days, the cup-bearer would go back to work for Pharaoh! Do this with me.

- Count to three.
- Pretend to sip from a cup again.

Everything would be okay. Joseph asked the cup-bearer to help him. Let's read what he said.



Read aloud Genesis 40:14.

Joseph wanted the cup-bearer to help him get out of jail. Next it was time to hear the baker's dream. The baker told his dream: he had three baskets of pastries on his head, and the top ones were for Pharaoh. But oh no! Birds came and ate them all.

- **? What do you think the baker's dream was really about?** Invite kids to guess what the dream meant. Invite a few responses from the whole group.

Thanks for your dream ideas. God helped Joseph know what the dream was really about. The baker was never going back to work for Pharaoh. That was sad news.

- Have everyone make sad faces.

What Joseph said all came true. But uh-oh. The cup-bearer forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph. Joseph had to stay in jail for two whole years. Let's talk in our Connect Crews again.

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **? When did you have to wait a long time for something?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Thanks for telling your stories. Even when we have to wait, **God is good (no matter what!).**

After two years, Pharaoh had a dream that no one could understand, and the cup-bearer finally remembered Joseph. He explained that Joseph knew how to tell what dreams meant, so Pharaoh asked Joseph to explain the dream.

- **Pharaoh saw seven big, healthy cows!** Have everyone moo loudly and pretend to be big, healthy cows wandering in a field.
- **Then Pharaoh saw seven sick-looking cows.** Have everyone moo softly and pretend to be weak cows barely making it around the room.
- **Pharaoh had a second dream where he saw seven big, healthy plants.** Have everyone stand and stretch as tall as they can with their arms.
- **Then Pharaoh saw seven dying plants.** Have everyone flop over and dangle their arms and bodies.

Repeat, repeat! Feel free to do activities more than once. You'll give kids time to catch on and jump in.



Because **God is good** (*no matter what!*), he helped Joseph explain Pharaoh's dreams. Show the Bible Story poster and explain what you see. Joseph said it meant that Pharaoh's land and all the crops would be healthy for seven years, but then, people wouldn't have anything to eat for the next seven years! But God helped Joseph know what to do about this problem. Act out with me what happened.

- Have everyone pretend to gather food from a field as you count to seven.
- Have everyone sit and pretend to eat as you count to seven.
- Cheer for Joseph.

God is good (*no matter what!*). Joseph trusted God, and God helped him know what people's dreams meant. **God is still good** (*no matter what!*). He's always with us and will help us.

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options.
Choose one or more that fit your time frame
to support today's Bible discoveries before
the closing Goodbye Circle.

