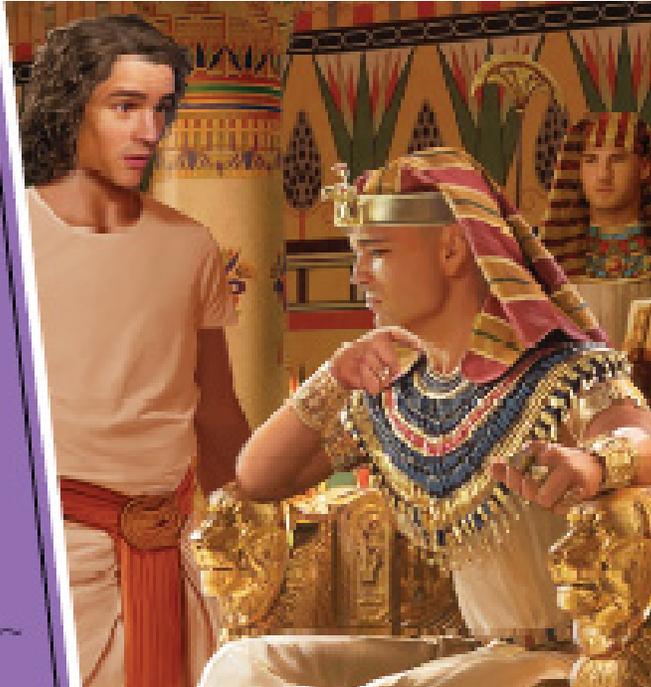




Family Worship Experience

- READ THE SCRIPTURE -

JOSEPH INTERPRETED PHARAOH'S DREAMS



Read Genesis 39:21–41:36 from your Bible or from below.

Although Joseph had done nothing wrong, he was in prison; but God caused the jailer to like Joseph. The jailer put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners. One day, Joseph talked with two of Pharaoh's servants who were in prison. He discovered they had troubling dreams about their future. God helped Joseph know what their dreams meant. Since Joseph knew the cupbearer would go back to work for Pharaoh, he asked the man to remember him and get him out of jail. However, the cupbearer forgot!

Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream. In his dream, seven healthy cows came up from the river to eat, but seven thin, sick cows came up from the river and ate up the healthy cows! Pharaoh woke up, but he didn't know what his dream meant. Pharaoh went back to sleep. This time he dreamed that seven heads of grain grew plump and good on one stalk, but then seven heads of thin, dried up grain swallowed the bigger plants. Pharaoh woke up, but he didn't understand his dreams. Pharaoh called for his wise men, but they could not help him. Finally, the cupbearer remembered Joseph! He told Pharaoh what Joseph had done for him. Pharaoh had Joseph brought to him. Pharaoh said, "I had dreams that no one can explain. I heard that you can explain dreams." Joseph said, "I cannot, but God will give you an answer."

After Joseph heard the dreams, he explained to Pharaoh, "The seven healthy cows and seven good grains mean you will have seven years when your land will be full of food, but the seven unhealthy cows and grains mean that seven years of famine will follow. There will be little food for those seven years."

Joseph continued, "Find a wise man to watch over the harvest, to store the extra grain, and to keep it until the famine. This way your country will not be wiped out because of the famine."



Family Worship Experience

-TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE-

Say: *Okay, I have another big word for you and you probably guessed that it starts with omni. By now you may have figured out that omni means of all things or in all ways. For example, we previously said God is omniscient or all knowing. Then we said He is omnipresent meaning He is present in all things or places. In today's story, we learn that God is omnipotent. This means that God is infinite or has unlimited power. He is in control of all things.*

Being put in jail for something you didn't do seems like a really bad thing to happen. That's what happened to Joseph in this week's story. Perhaps Joseph wondered what good could come from this bad situation or if God was really in control of what was happening. It took a while, but God showed Joseph He was in control of everything and that something good like saving a whole nation would come from the bad time Joseph was experiencing.

While in jail, Joseph met two men who were in the king's service. One of those two men would later remember Joseph when the king had dreams no one could explain. At just the right time, God reminded the cupbearer of Joseph and how he interpreted his dream. The king called for Joseph to tell him what the dreams meant. Joseph wisely told the king he could not answer, but God would provide the answer. God used Joseph to interpret the dreams and warn the king of the upcoming famine. The king then used those interpretations for good. Pharaoh set up storehouses to store food and put Joseph in charge of them.

Finally, Joseph saw the good that came from being in jail. Joseph later even told his brothers that what they had meant for bad, God used for good.

Maybe you have wondered why God would allow something bad to happen or what good could possibly come from something bad. It's okay if you have, just hold on and remember that God loves you and is in control of all things.

Preschool Life Point: *God can do all things.*

Kids Life Point: *God is in control of all things.*

Preschool Review Questions:

1. Who had a dream in the Bible story?
2. Who told Pharaoh that Joseph could help him?
2. Who helped Joseph know what Pharaoh and his servants' dreams meant?

Elementary Review Questions:

1. Who did Pharaoh go to for an explanation of his dreams?
2. Who did Joseph say would give Pharaoh an answer about his dreams?
3. Who do you go to when you need answers about something you do not understand?

Pray: *God, I know that you control all things. Help me to trust that even when I can not see the good in a situation, you are still in control and working all things out. Amen.*



Family Worship Experience

- LEARN SCRIPTURE -

The weekly Bible verse below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.

PRESCHOOL (paraphrase): I am your
God. *Psalm 50:7*

KIDS: Joseph said to them, “Don’t be
afraid. Am I in the place of God? You
planned evil against me; God planned
it for good to bring about the present
result--the survival of many people.”

Genesis 50:19-20



Family Worship Experience

- SING -

Sing a *Bible Studies for Life* song or one of your family’s favorite worship songs.