

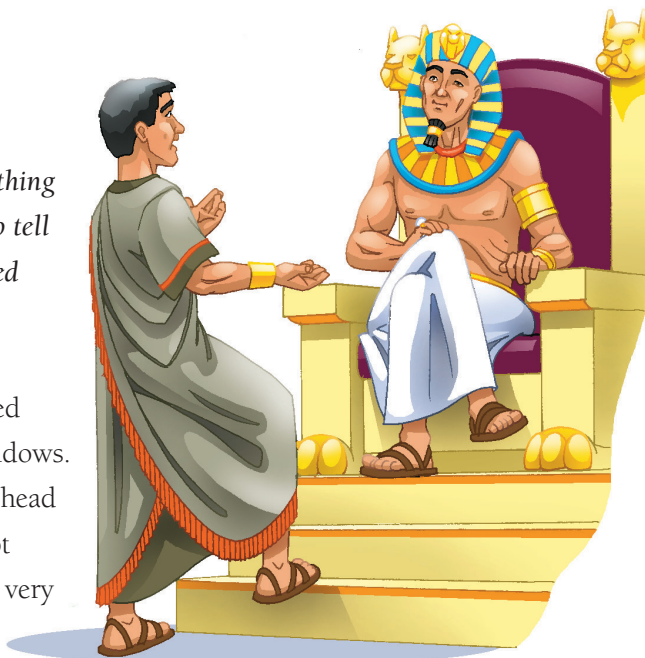


REFERENCES: GENESIS 41; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 219-223.

A Wise Choice

Have you ever been asked to do something that was really hard? Joseph was asked to tell Pharaoh about some dreams, but he needed God's help to do it.

The morning light poured through the palace windows. Pharaoh woke up. His head ached. He had not slept well at all. He had had very strange dreams. "Bring the wise men to me!" he called to his servants.



Memory Verse

"I cannot do it, . . .
but God will."

GENESIS 41:16, NIV.

The Message

God can help us do anything.

The wise men listened carefully as the king told them about his strange dreams. They whispered together and shook their heads. "We don't know what the dreams mean," they admitted.

Suddenly Pharaoh's cupbearer stepped forward. "When I was in prison," the cupbearer began, "I had a strange dream too. A young man named Joseph told me what my dream meant. And everything happened exactly as he said it would."

Pharaoh pointed toward the door. "Bring this Joseph to me!" The guards rushed to the jail and brought Joseph out. He

shaved and put on clean clothes. Then the guards hurried him to the king.

“I had a dream,” Pharaoh told Joseph. “No one here can tell me what it means. I hear that you can explain dreams. Tell me what my dream means.”

Joseph answered truthfully, “I cannot explain the meaning of dreams. But God will tell me, and I will tell you.”

“I dreamed I was standing on a riverbank,” Pharaoh began. “I saw seven beautiful, fat cows come out of the river and begin to eat grass. Then seven skinny cows came out! And the seven skinny cows ate up the seven fat cows!

“And then I had another dream,” Pharaoh continued. “I saw seven plump heads of grain growing out of a stalk. Then seven more thin, ugly heads of grain grew out of the same stalk. And the thin heads of grain swallowed up the plump, full heads!”

“Both the dreams mean the same thing,” Joseph began. “God is telling you what He is going to do. There will be seven good years for growing food. And then there will be seven years of hunger because food will not grow.

“You need to choose a man who is wise,” Joseph said. “Let him store the extra food that grows in the seven good years, so there will be food during the seven years of famine, and the people will not die of hunger.”

Pharaoh was pleased to hear Joseph’s ideas. He took his own ring off his finger and put it on Joseph. He put a gold chain around Joseph’s neck. “You are in charge of all the land of Egypt,” Pharaoh proclaimed. “You are second in command under me.”

So Joseph began his new work. He rode around the land and arranged to store all the extra food that grew in the seven good years.

Joseph was not in jail anymore. He was working for the king. But Joseph knew one thing was the same. God would take care of him in the palace, just as He had in the jail.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Read the lesson story together every day this week and review the memory verse.

- I Point to self.
cannot do it, Wag finger back and forth no.
- but God will.** . . . Point upward, then nod head yes.
- Genesis 41:16** . . Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Together, read Genesis 41, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: How long was Joseph in jail after the cupbearer was set free? How do you think Joseph felt when he was called to see Pharaoh? What did Pharaoh ask Joseph to do? Could he do it?

MONDAY

Ask your child to do a few things (such as hop up and down three times, touch their toes, pat their tummy, turn around, blink their eyes five times, yawn, etc.). Then ask them to lick their elbow. Ask: Why can't you do it? There are other things we may have to do that are hard but who can help us do hard things?

Sing "My God Is So Great" before prayer.

TUESDAY

Encourage your child to share the Joseph's

Chain made in Sabbath School with someone as they share the memory verse and story. (Or cut eight strips of paper and write one word of the memory verse on each strip. Help your child tape them together to make a paper chain.)

WEDNESDAY

Ask your child: What are some things that are easy for you to do? (Run; sing; count to 10; hop; etc.) What things are hard now but will be easy to do when you are bigger? (Tie shoes; reach a high shelf; read; count to 1,000; etc.) Help your child do some of these things. Remind them that God can help them do hard things.



THURSDAY

Let your child ask a family member about a time God helped them when they couldn't help themselves.

Sing "Jesus Loves Me," then pray, thanking God for helping us when things are hard for us.

FRIDAY

With your child, make a pretend "jail" out of chairs and blankets. Act out the story. Let your child pretend to be Joseph and "burst" out of jail when called for by Pharaoh. Talk about how God cares for us.

Sing "He's Able," then thank God for helping us grow to do bigger and better things.

