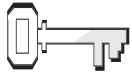


Free at Last



References

Genesis 40; 41;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*, pp. 218–223



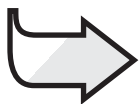
Memory Verse

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things’ ”
(Matthew 25:23, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God will help His children to be faithful no matter what happens.
Feel a desire to do their best even in unpleasant circumstances.
Respond by being faithful to God wherever they go and whatever they do.



The Message

God helps me to be faithful no matter what happens.

Monthly Theme

We learn Christian values.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph is faithful to God in jail. The warden puts Joseph in charge of everything in the prison. Two prisoners dream strange dreams, and God helps Joseph interpret them. The dreams come true, proving that Joseph serves a powerful God. Two years later Pharaoh has a troubling dream. Pharaoh’s cupbearer remembers Joseph, and he is brought from prison to give the interpretation God shows him. Pharaoh makes Joseph governor over all Egypt.

This is a lesson about community.

Joseph took the God of his fathers into prison and palace. If we always take with us the relationship with God that we start in our Christian home and with our church family, God will bless us, no matter where we find ourselves.

Teacher Enrichment

Prison—In Old Testament times prisons were places of confinement for people awaiting trial. After the trial they were punished or released. Punishments were usually very cruel. Prisons were designed to deprive prisoners of all comfort. Joseph was chained for at least part of his time in prison. (See Psalm 105:17, 18.) (See *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 8, p. 902.)

Joseph shaved before seeing Pharaoh. Joseph is the first man in the Bible mentioned as shaving. Beards were common in early times when people lived as wandering shepherds. Egyptians, however, wore short hair and were closely shaved. (See *Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary* [Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986], p. 973.)

Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Go to Jail!</i> B. <i>Strange Dream Viewer</i>	slips of paper, Bibles cardboard box, piece of paper for each child, markers, pencils, crayons, Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering device construction paper, lined paper, pencils or pens
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	large bed sheet, cow shapes, ear of corn shapes, spotlight or lamp cow drawings with memory verse (see page 143) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Rice Challenge</i>	plastic spoons, bowls, uncooked rice
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Faithfulness Certificates</i>	certificates (see page 144), paper, markers, crayons, pencils, stickers

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- slips of paper
- Bibles

A. Go to Jail!

In advance: Prepare slips of paper with false accusations for each child in your class. Examples: "You kicked (name) today"; "You have a bad attitude"; "You took (name's) seat"; etc. Also, prepare one corner as a jail by blocking area with chairs. Call each child forward, read the accusation aloud, and send them to the jail corner to remain until you let them out. (Release them after Debriefing.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel about being accused of something you did not do? How do you think Joseph felt when he was put in prison?** (Accept answers.) **How did he act? Let's read Matthew 25:23.** Read aloud together. **This verse wasn't written about Joseph, but it describes how he acted. Today's message is:**



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- cardboard box
- piece of paper for each child
- markers, pencils, crayons
- Bibles

B. Strange Dream Viewer

Prepare in advance a cardboard box with an opening cut out to look like a TV. Slit each side so that pages can slide through sequentially. Provide each child with paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to draw a picture to illustrate a dream about cows or corn. Do not hint at the Bible story for today. Tape the pictures together and run them through the TV box. As the pictures come into view, let the children describe what is taking place in their picture, composing one long "dream."

Debriefing

Ask: **Have you ever had a dream like this?** (yes, no) **Dreams can seem pretty silly, can't they?** (yes) **Can you tell me what this dream we've just seen means?** (probably nothing) Say: **Most dreams do not have meanings. But sometimes God gives dreams that do. God chose faithful people, like Joseph, to explain what those dreams meant. Let's find and read Matthew 25:23.** Read aloud together. **Today's message is:**



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

Say that with me.

*** Note to leader:**
Be sure that the children understand the meaning of *faithful*.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"The Journey of Life" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 122)

"The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139)

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 140)

"God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Do you faithfully bring offerings to God? Our faithful offerings help others learn to be faithful.**

You Need:

- offering device



Prayer

Have the children begin a prayer booklet. Staple lined paper inside construction paper. Have the children write their names on the cover and a Bible verse about prayer, such as Philippians 4:6.

For this week, have the children write or draw about something in their lives in which they struggle to be faithful (spending money; doing well in school; obeying parents; choosing friends, food, or entertainment). Then allow time for silent prayer as the children ask God to help them to be faithful. Collect the books to use another Sabbath.

You Need:

- construction paper
- lined paper
- pencils or pens

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- large bed sheet
- large fat and thin cow shapes
- large fat and thin ear of corn shapes
- lamp or spotlight

Experiencing the Story

In advance, hang the large sheet from as high as necessary to touch the floor. Behind the sheet, hang fat and thin cow shapes and fat and thin ear of corn shapes. Set up the lamp or spotlight behind the sheet and shapes. During the story, have a helper turn on the light to make the objects of the dream appear at the appropriate time.

Read or tell the story.

Potiphar put Joseph in prison after Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of doing wrong. God knew that Joseph was innocent, but He let Joseph go to prison anyway. Sometimes God lets His people be put in the strangest places—for a special reason.

God blessed Joseph even in prison. The prison warden noticed the good work Joseph did. He soon put him in charge of the other prisoners.

Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker were two of the men Joseph met in prison. One day Joseph noticed that these men were sad. They both had just dreamed a dream they could not understand.

Joseph listened to the men's stories. God guided him to tell them the meanings of their dreams. Everything he said would happen did happen. The king's cupbearer returned to work at the palace. But the baker did not.

Joseph spent two more years in prison after that.

One night Pharaoh had two dreams. *[Helper shines spotlight on fat cow from behind cow and sheet.]* In the first he saw seven fat cows eating grass on the riverbank. *[Helper shines spotlight on skinny cow.]* Out of nowhere came seven skinny

cows and ate them up!

[Helper shines spotlight on fat ear of corn.] In a second dream, Pharaoh saw seven ears of healthy corn (or "heads of grain"). *[Helper shines spotlight on skinny ear of corn.]* Suddenly seven little, unhealthy ears of corn appeared and swallowed up the healthy ones! These dreams disturbed Pharaoh so much that he couldn't go back to sleep. What did they mean?

No one in Pharaoh's palace could understand the dreams. Then the king's cupbearer remembered Joseph and Joseph was called from the prison.

Joseph told Pharaoh that God sometimes gives people dreams. He had given these dreams to Pharaoh. And He had given Joseph the meaning of them. "Your two dreams tell about the same event," Joseph explained. "For the next seven years, Egypt will grow more food than you could possibly use. The cows and the grain will be fat. Then the seven years after that will be very bad. No food will grow, and many people and animals could starve to death.

"You should build storehouses in which to keep the extra grain grown in the fat years," Joseph suggested, "so Egypt will have enough food for the years of famine."

Pharaoh agreed. He decided that Joseph was a wise man, so he set him in charge of building the storehouses. Pharaoh gave Joseph his official ring, and he gave him new clothes. He put Joseph in charge of the entire country of Egypt!

Truly "the Lord was with Joseph" (Genesis 39:2 [NIV]). God had left Joseph in prison for a reason. Joseph was faithful to God at all times. We can be faithful too. When bad things happen to us, our heavenly Father can help us be faithful to Him.

Debriefing

Ask: **How were Joseph's experiences in Potiphar's house and the prison alike? Let's read Genesis 39:3, and 21.** (The Lord was with him.)

Joseph could have grumbled and complained when he was sold as a slave, when Potiphar's wife lied about him, and when he was in prison for a long time. What did he do instead? (He stayed close to God and asked Him for help to be faithful; did his best in what was nearest; said "No" to Satan; was patient for God to work things out, etc.)

When you are tempted to complain and blame God for bad things that happen to you, what should you remember? Let's answer with today's message:



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

Memory Verse

In advance, cut out the cows (see page 143), one for each child.

Print the entire memory verse where all can see.

Distribute the cows, one to each child. Have the children read the phrase on their cow, then join with two children who have the other two phrases that will complete the memory verse. When they have a complete verse, they are to sit down quickly. Have them read the complete verse to an adult helper who will assist as necessary.

When all groups of three are seated, collect the papers, mix them up, and do

You Need:

- line drawing of cow with memory verse phrase for each child (see page 143)

the activity again. Repeat until the children know the entire verse and can say it together.

Bible Study

Form two teams. Give each team two texts to read and ask them to act out the story until the opposite team guesses it. Tell them that all the stories are about dreams. If the opposite team can't guess the story, that team must find and read the corresponding text. Select from the following texts.

Acts 10:9-12—

Peter's sheet full of animals

Genesis 41:1-4—

Pharaoh's dream about cows

Judges 7:13-15—

Gideon's loaf of bread

Daniel 2:31-35—

Nebuchadnezzar's image

1 Kings 3:5-10—

Solomon asks for wisdom

Matthew 1:20, 21—

Joseph's dream

You Need:

- Bibles

Debriefing

Say: **God has many ways of helping us learn about Him and His plans for us. Dreams are one of the ways.**

God is always near to help us do the right thing and to be faithful to Him. How has God helped you be faithful to Him? Share with your class. (through family worship; reading the Bible; going to Sabbath School and church; through events in my life; through counseling with adults, etc.)

Always remember that ...



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- plastic spoons
- bowls
- uncooked rice, lentils, beans, or peas

Rice Challenge

Divide the children into pairs lined up facing each other about 8 feet (2.5 meters) apart. One of each pair will have a bowl of uncooked rice (or similar small object). The other one will have an empty bowl and a spoon.

Those with spoons will place the handle in their mouth, go to where their partner is standing, and receive four grains of rice. Then they will go back to their original place, carefully dumping the rice into the empty bowl. They then return for eight grains of rice.

They may only receive more rice if they have successfully placed the previous number of grains into the bowl. This continues with the amount being doubled each time (until the spoon cannot hold more). If they drop any, they must return to begin again by receiving four grains from their teammate. Give opportunity for teammates to switch tasks. End the activity after five minutes.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was this game hard or easy?** (It started easy and got hard.) **Did you like getting more and more grains of rice?** (Accept answers.)

What does this activity and our memory verse have in common? (If we are faithful to God in a few things, our faith will grow, and we will be faithful in many more things.)

In what things do we need to be faithful? (obey God's directions for our lives; trust Him as Joseph did; do what our parents ask us to)

Joseph was faithful in the unpleasant things in prison, and God made him a ruler in Egypt. We won't become rulers over countries, but we can be faithful to God in whatever we do. Let's say today's message.



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Faithfulness Certificates

In advance prepare a certificate for each child (see page 144).

Pray for each child as you prepare the certificates. Ask God to help you think of something special that each has faithfully done as a member of your class. Have extras to give to visitors, listing “coming to Sabbath School” as the thing in which they have been faithful. If available, put a sticker on each certificate.

Present these certificates to each child. Then allow time for the children to make a card to give to someone in their family or church who has been faithful no matter what happens. The card can read: “ (name of person) , you have been faithful in (name of responsibility) . God has blessed you!” Have the children sign their names. Suggest that they present the card at family worship or while at church today.

Debriefing

Say: **Is it easy to be faithful?** (Yes. No. Sometimes.) **Who helps us?** (God)

How does He help us? (He helps me remember what I have learned about Him at home and church. He helps through His Word and prayer. He helps through my parents, teachers, pastor, etc.)

How did you feel when you were recognized for being faithful? (I knew that it was God who helped me to be faithful.) **How do you feel about other people who are faithful to what they are expected to do?** (I like them and want to be like them.) **What will you remember from today’s lesson? Let’s answer with our message:**



GOD HELPS ME TO BE FAITHFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

Closing

Sing: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 119). Pray that the children will remain faithful to Jesus, doing their best with what lies nearest.

You Need:

- one certificate for each child (see page 144)
- paper
- markers, crayons, pencils
- stickers

Free at Last

References

Genesis 40; 41;
*Patriarchs and
Prophets*,
pp. 218–223

Memory Verse

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” (Matthew 25:23, NIV).

The Message

God helps me to be faithful no matter what happens.

Have you ever had a dream that you couldn't remember? Or have you had a dream that didn't make sense? Let's read about dreams that left someone very puzzled.

Potiphar put Joseph in prison after Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of a crime. God knew that Joseph was innocent. He let Joseph go to prison anyway.

Sometimes God lets His people be put in the strangest places—for a special reason.

God blessed Joseph even in prison. The prison warden noticed the good work Joseph did. He soon put him in charge of the other prisoners.

Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker were two of the men Joseph met in prison. One day Joseph noticed that these men were sad. They both had just dreamed a dream they could not understand.

Joseph knew about dreams. God had given him some important dreams when he was younger. He listened to the men's stories. God helped him tell them the meanings of their dreams. Everything he said would happen did happen. The cupbearer returned to work for the king. The baker did not.

Joseph spent two more years in prison after that.

One night Pharaoh had two dreams.

In the first he saw seven fat cows eating grass on the riverbank. Out of nowhere came seven skinny

cows and ate them up! In a second dream, Pharaoh saw seven ears of healthy corn (“heads of grain”). Suddenly seven little, unhealthy ears of corn appeared and swallowed up the healthy ones! These dreams disturbed Pharaoh so much that he couldn't go back to sleep. What did they mean?

No one in Pharaoh's palace could understand the dreams. Then the king's cupbearer remembered Joseph. And Joseph was brought from the prison.

Joseph told Pharaoh that God sometimes gives people dreams. He had given these to Pharaoh. And He had given Joseph the meaning of them. “Your two dreams predict the same event,” Joseph explained. “For the next seven years, Egypt will grow more food than you could possibly use. The cows and the grain will be fat. Then the seven years after that will be very bad. No food will grow, and many people could starve.

“You should build more storehouses. Keep the extra grain grown in the fat years,” Joseph suggested. “If you do, Egypt will have enough food for the years of famine.”

Pharaoh agreed with Joseph. He decided that Joseph was a wise man. So he set him in charge of building the storehouses. Pharaoh gave Joseph his official ring. He gave him new clothes—nicer than those taken by his brothers or Potiphar's wife. And he placed Joseph in charge of the entire country of Egypt!

Truly “the Lord was with Joseph” (Genesis 39:2). He had left Joseph in prison for a reason. When bad things happen to us, we can be faithful like Joseph. God can help us be faithful to Him—the God we are learning about in our home and church families. He can do great things with our lives—no matter where we go or what happens.



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Try to visit a dairy farm with your family to see some cows. (Or read about cows and corn in a book.) Read your Bible lesson and tell what cows and corn meant to Joseph; to Pharaoh; to the people in Egypt.
- Read Matthew 25:23 together and tell what it means to you.
- Before prayer, sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139). Pray for farmers.

Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Genesis 41:1-13. Draw a picture of Pharaoh's dream and add it to your *Story of Joseph* book. How many cows did Pharaoh see?
- Make three cutouts of corn or cows. Write one phrase of your memory verse on each. Try to arrange your cutouts in the correct order. Save them for another day.

Monday

- Read and discuss Genesis 41:14-24 during family worship. Have someone help you look up the word *dream* in a Bible concordance. Count how many verses are listed and look up two of them.
- Ask your family: What places suffer from famine today? Pray for people who live there.
- Arrange your memory verse cutouts in order. Sing about God's love before prayer.

Tuesday

- Together with your family, read and discuss Genesis 41:25-36. Draw a picture of Joseph explaining the dream to Pharaoh. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book.
- Name some grains other than corn. What is your favorite? Eat something made of grain today.
- ADRA helps people in need. Find out about an ADRA project.

- Arrange your memory verse cutouts and tell what the verse means.
- Pray for workers who help people in need.

Wednesday

- During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 41:37-46.
- Draw a picture of Joseph being made ruler for your *Story of Joseph* book.
- Make a card to recognize someone in your family or church who is always faithful. The card can read: " (name of person) , you have been faithful in (name of responsibility) . Congratulations!" Sign your name and give it to the person. Pray for that person today.
- Say your memory verse from memory.

Thursday

- Read and discuss Genesis 41:47-57 for family worship. Draw a picture of the years of plenty and the years of famine. Place your pictures in your *Story of Joseph* book.
- Joseph's faithfulness to God saved many people from starving. Ask an adult: How many days can a person live without food? Without water?
- Sing "I Would Be True" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 117); then say your memory verse. Thank God for food and water.

Friday

- Joseph faithfully did everything well. Follow Joseph's example and help get ready for Sabbath today.
- Using your *Story of Joseph* book, tell your family what you have learned about Joseph so far. Close by saying your memory verse.
- Ask someone in your family to tell about a faithful person or animal. Then say this week's message together. Ask God to help your family always to be faithful to Him.
- Sing Philippians 4:13 to a tune you know, or make one up.