

11 Lesson

Free at Last!

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

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

The Message

God helps me to be faithful no matter what happens.

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).

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.



S A B B A T H

DO 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 Read Matthew 25:23 together and tell what it means to you.

DO Before prayer, sing "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139). Pray for farmers.

M O N D A Y

READ 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.

PRAY Ask your family: What places suffer from famine today? Pray for people who live there.

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts in order. Sing about God's love before prayer.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Genesis 41:37-46.

DO Draw a picture of Joseph being made ruler for your *Story of Joseph* book.

SHARE 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.

DO Say your memory verse from memory.

S U N D A Y

READ 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?

DO 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.

T U E S D A Y

READ 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.

DO Name some grains other than corn. What is your favorite? Eat something made of grain today.

DO ADRA helps people in need. Find out about an ADRA project.

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts and tell what the verse means.

PRAY Pray for workers who help people in need.

Joseph
was 30 years old when
he began serving
Pharaoh.



THURSDAY

DO 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?

DO Sing "I Would Be True" (Sing for Joy, No. 117); then say your memory verse. Thank God for food and water.

FRIDAY

DO Joseph faithfully did everything well. Follow Joseph's example and help get ready for Sabbath today.

TELL Using your *Story of Joseph* book, tell your family what you have learned about Joseph so far. Close by saying your memory verse.

DO 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 Sing Philippians 4:13 to a tune you know, or make one up.

Free at Last! PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to find two places where Joseph was able to help people.

10 11 6 12 9 8

1 8 3

10 5 1 11 9 1 5 12

10 1 7 1 2 4

<u>A</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12