

## JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAMS

*God works all things together for our good.*



THE STORY: GENESIS 39

MONDAY

### The Lord was with Joseph.

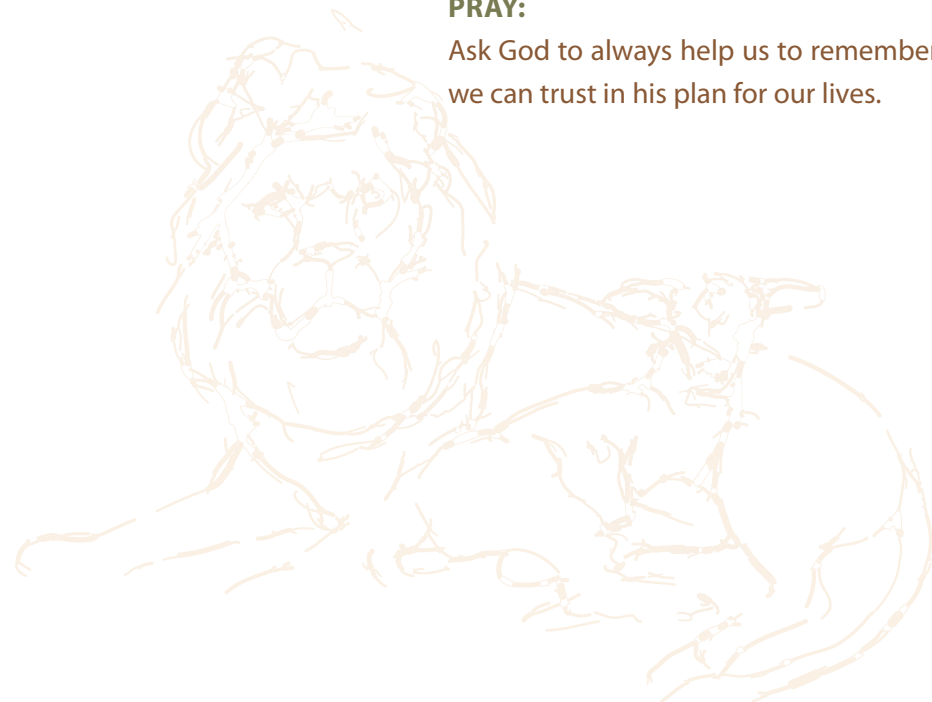
The Lord was with Joseph. We need to be careful to trust God even in difficult circumstances. God is always in control. Nothing, not even imprisonment, can hinder His plan. Here Joseph is falsely accused and thrown into prison. God's grace to Joseph in prison is seen in the favor God gave Joseph with the warden. (You may want to review this chapter before reading it to your children. Potiphar's wife asked Joseph to "come to bed with me" (NIV) or "lie with me" ESV. Don't be overly concerned to read through these chapters with younger children present. You need not get into a detailed account of what she meant. Simply stated, she was dishonoring her husband. She then accused Joseph of trying to steal her away from her husband.)

#### TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God show kindness to Joseph in the midst of his false imprisonment? (*God gave Joseph favor with the warden of the prison. Rather than suffer in prison Joseph was given responsibility over all that was done in the prison. Who could imagine a prisoner in charge of what took place inside the prison! We need to remember that even when things seem to be falling apart in our lives our God is in control and can work them together for good!*)

#### PRAY:

Ask God to always help us to remember that even when things are not going well we can trust in his plan for our lives.





## Interpretations belong to the Lord

Interpretations belong to the Lord – Since God is the giver of dreams, He is also the interpreter of them. Joseph didn't claim to be able to interpret dreams on his own. He recognized the authority and rule of God over the dreams. God, in turn, gave Joseph the interpretation of the dreams of both the cupbearer and baker.

Events transpired just as Joseph had said, but the cupbearer forgot Joseph. Once again, it might seem like God had abandoned Joseph. But when Pharaoh had a dream of his own, Joseph, still in prison, was easy to locate. In the end Joseph was not forgotten.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How did the favor God gave Joseph with the prison warden help Joseph? (*Joseph was able to help the baker and cupbearer because he found out about their dreams. If he had been locked away in his own prison cell he never would have found out about their dreams.*)

Who gave the dreams to the two men? (*God gave the dreams to the men. Joseph told them that interpretations belong to God (40:8) but God is also the giver of dreams. That does not mean that all dreams have a special meaning but that God is in control of everything, even dreams.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for preserving Joseph and for giving him the interpretation of the baker and cupbearer's dreams.



## Where is Jesus?

Like Joseph, Jesus was a righteous servant who was numbered among transgressors unjustly. Like Joseph, Jesus was used of God to bring salvation for His people.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How was Joseph used to bring salvation to God's people? (After interpreting Pharaoh's dream Joseph would be used by God to provide food for Israel during the famine which preserved their lives.)

**PRAY:**

Thank God for the way he uses men to bring about His plan. Not only does God save us, but He also uses us to accomplish great things!



THE STORY: GENESIS 40:15-39

THURSDAY

## Joseph directed Pharaoh to God

Joseph directed Pharaoh to God – After hearing Pharaoh's dreams, Joseph pointed Pharaoh to God. Joseph told Pharaoh that God was communicating to him the future of Egypt. God told him that there would be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph went on to give Pharaoh wise counsel. After hearing Joseph's counsel Pharaoh placed Joseph in charge of Egypt, and God blessed Joseph. Joseph's position administrating the years of plenty, set the stage for the salvation of Israel in the years of famine. Another chapter of God's intervening salvation of His people Israel began to take shape.

It is easy to boast in our accomplishments. Joseph had accurately predicted what would happen to the cupbearer and the chief baker. Pharaoh, concerned about his dreams summoned Joseph based on his reputation. Rather than boast, Joseph gave the glory to God for what had been done. Joseph understood that his understanding of dreams was all of grace.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How might we be tempted to boast in our lives? *(Help your children recall times when they were tempted to boast or maybe gave into boasting.)*

What does Paul tell us we should boast in? *(Paul tells us that our boast should be in Jesus Christ: Galatians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 1:28-31. This means that we revel in the salvation He accomplished. We should recognize that all of our accomplishments are by grace, and our works are nothing compared with His finished work. Apart from the cross we deserve death and judgment. The fact that we live to accomplish anything is grace.)*

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you boast in what Jesus has done rather than what we have done.



## On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the Prophet, like Moses, who would come from among the Israelites. This would not be an ordinary prophet, but one who stands as God Himself among the people. When John the Baptist ministered, some of the people asked him if he was the Prophet who was foretold, see John 1:21.

Peter, reviewing the history of God's plan of redemption with the crowd in Acts 3:17-23, told them that it was Jesus who is the prophet foretold in the book of Deuteronomy. God spoke through many prophets, but Jesus is the one prophet that stands out; the one who we must listen to and obey.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Review Acts 3:17-23 and compare it with Deuteronomy 18:15-19. How does Peter connect this Old Testament passage with Christ? *(Peter tells them straight out that Jesus was the one who was "appointed for them.")*

How was Jesus a prophet? *(Jesus spoke the words of God. Jesus was the word who came in flesh. In Matthew 16:21, Jesus also prophesied His death and resurrection before it happened.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to tell us about the Father and offer up His life as a sacrifice for our sins.

