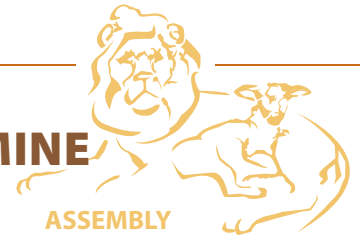


# GOD PROVIDED FOR HIS PEOPLE IN FAMINE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 41-42



ASSEMBLY

*The story can be read from start to finish. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### YEARS OF PLENTY AND YEARS OF FAMINE

**Supplies:**

- a large bag of popped popcorn
- in a small baggie crush one saltine cracker
- play money.

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching

Divide the class in half. Give the large bag of popcorn to one half of the class (they represent Egypt who stored their grain). Give the other half of the class the saltine cracker (they represent Israel and Joseph's brothers in famine).

Give the famine stricken half of the class some paper play money and have them buy popcorn from the other side of the room (Egypt).

Talk to the children about how this little exercise is like the situation in Egypt in the Bible story. Ask the children who provided the food. Ultimately it was God who provided the food for Israel.

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### WHO SUPPLIES OUR FOOD?

**Supplies:**

- a small loaf of cornbread and some dried corn or popcorn kernels

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching

Pass the dried corn around the class for them to look at. Offer each child a small piece of corn bread.

Use the following questions to draw the children out on this topic:

- Who made the corn bread? (They will likely answer that the teacher made the bread or bought the bread.)
- Who made the seeds? (They will likely answer God.)
- Who makes the seeds grow? (Again, they will probably say God.)
- Who really provides the bread?  
Help them to see it is God.

Finally, read the following scripture to them:

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. (2 Corinthians 9:10)



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### Where Is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Although the story of Joseph's kidnapping, slavery, and later imprisonment is tragic, God was at work behind the scenes preparing to save His people. Ultimately, Joseph led Egypt to store grain for a coming famine. It is this grain that Joseph's brothers will come to Egypt to purchase so that Abraham's descendants would not die.

Story after story points to God as a God who saves. God would ultimately save His people from a different kind of hunger and death – a spiritual hunger and death. Jesus offered Himself as the "Bread of Life" to all who are hungry. His words are all we need to live. And when He died on the cross He took our place so that we might have life with Christ. Behind the scenes, God was and is working all things together for good.

Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

(Acts 7:9-10)

