

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAMS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 39-41



The STORY

Read "Thrown into Prison!" and "The Meaning of Dreams" and "The Prisoner and the King" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 48-50).

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is this story about? (Joseph is thrown into prison and interprets the dreams of the baker, wine-steward, and the Pharaoh.)
- Who did Joseph say is in charge of dreams? (Joseph said that dreams "belong" to God. It is God that both gives dreams and allows them to be understood.)
- Did things happen as Joseph said they would? (Yes. God helped Joseph know what the dreams were about.)
- What did the Pharaoh do when Joseph told him what his dream was about? (The Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all of Egypt.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Joseph telling Pharaoh the meaning of his dream. Engage the children by asking:

- Which person in the picture is Joseph? Which one is Pharaoh?
- Who can remember Pharaoh's dream? (See Genesis 41:17)
- What is the seat called that Pharaoh, King of Egypt, is sitting on? (A king's chair is called a throne.)
Have the children color the throne gold.
- What country did Pharaoh rule? (Egypt)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What do you think it would be like to be thrown into prison? (It would be cold and dark without much to eat.)
- Was Joseph angry that he was thrown into prison? (No, he tried to help the other prisoners. Joseph was not angry because he trusted God.)
- Was God with Joseph in prison? (Yes)
- How can we know that God was with Joseph in prison? (God gave Joseph the correct meaning of the dreams.)

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.

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

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

