

GOD PROVIDED FOR HIS PEOPLE IN FAMINE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 41-42



PRESCHOOL

The STORY

Read "The New Prime Minister" and "Food in Egypt" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 52-53).

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.

- How did God warn Egypt of the coming famine? (God gave the King of Egypt a dream to tell him there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.)
- What did the king do when he found out what his dreams meant? (The king appointed Joseph to store grain from the plenty years to provide for the people in the lean years.)
- Did the plan Joseph gave the King of Egypt work? (Yes, everything happened just as God planned and Joseph's plan worked.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Joseph's brothers coming to Egypt. Engage the children by asking:

- Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? (They came to buy food because their land was also in a famine.)
- Who did the brothers need to ask for food? (The brothers needed to ask Joseph if they could buy food.)
- Did they know it was Joseph? (No, they did not recognize Joseph. They thought they were speaking to an Egyptian ruler.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- Why is a famine dangerous? (A famine means there is no food to eat. Without food people cannot survive.)
- What does it feel like to be hungry?
Have the children talk about the way it feels.
- Who provides our food? (Ultimately, it is God that provides our food.)
Help the children to see how God provided for his people through Joseph.

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.

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.

