



Joseph's Dream Explained

Bible Passage: Genesis 39-41

Memory Verse: 4 "But I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. **Hosea 13:4**

Bottom Line: Because nothing is too hard for God, we can always count on him.

Big Picture Question: Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Christ Connection: *God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great authority. God used Joseph to help Joseph's family and many others. When Jesus came to earth, He gave up His position of honor in heaven to be the Savior of the world.*

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

Say This:

Our big picture question this unit is this: **Is there anything God cannot do?** Who can tell me the answer we learned last week? [Allow responses.] Good job! **God can do all things according to His character.** That means that God is powerful and good. He makes all things happen according to His perfect plan. He doesn't do bad things because He is good. He is our perfect, loving, all-powerful God. We can't always make sense of His good plans when we are right in the middle of hard times though. We can learn a lot by studying Joseph.

Last week we learned that Joseph lived with his father and brothers. His father favored him, and as a result, his brothers hated him. We saw that **Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.** This week we will learn about what happened to Joseph in Egypt, and how God was moving Joseph into position to be a part of His awesome plan. Our story this week is called "Joseph Explained Dreams."

Watch Video- taken from Genesis 39-41

If you remember the start of the story last week, you may realize that Joseph has some experience with meaningful dreams. In his dreams as a boy, Joseph saw images that suggested he would one day rule over his family. As a slave, it may have seemed that would never happen, but God was with Joseph and blessed Joseph's work. When Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph, he ended up in prison! But not even jail time can stop God's plans. Soon, Joseph was so trusted that the jailer allowed Joseph to run the prison!

When the cupbearer and baker from Pharaoh's own kitchens were thrown in jail, Joseph was there in a position of power. After they had strange dreams that Joseph could understand, it seemed that Joseph may have found a way out of prison at last. But for two years after the cupbearer went back to serving Pharaoh, he forgot about Joseph. It wasn't until Pharaoh himself had a dream that needed explaining that the cupbearer finally



remembered Joseph. Joseph explained the Pharaoh's dreams about years of plenty and years of famine, so Pharaoh trusted Joseph to collect food for Egypt.

God gave Joseph power to understand dreams, and through that ability, Joseph moved into a new position of power, this time over all Egypt! This position would be extremely important for the next part of God's plan to save Jacob's family.

Christ connection

When we are in the middle of hard times or sad situations, it can be difficult to trust God. Though we may not always see the ways that God is working, we can trust that He is working. Joseph may not have known at first why God allowed him to be a slave and then a prisoner, but it was part of God's plan.

God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great authority. God used Joseph to help Joseph's family and many others. When Jesus came to earth, He gave up His position of honor in heaven to be the Savior of the world. Then Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us from sin. God's plan always works out for His glory and our good.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster

What You Do:

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Help kids use the table of contents and chapter numbers to find Genesis 39–41.
- Remind the kids that the Bible is divided to help us organize the information it contains.
- Discuss the differences and similarities between the Old and New Testament.
- Remind them that Genesis is part of the Old Testament and the *Torah*, or Law.

What You Say • God gave Joseph power to understand dreams. God provided Joseph more than a way out of prison, He put Joseph in a position to save his family. God's plans always happen. As we have learned: ***Is there anything God cannot do?***

2. Discussion Questions:

- **Why did Joseph go to prison?** (*Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of something, and Potiphar believed her, Gen. 39:16-19*)
- **Whose dreams did Joseph explain in prison?** (*the cupbearer's and the baker's, Gen. 40:5-19*)



- **When did the cupbearer remember Joseph?** (two years later when Pharaoh needed dreams explained, Gen. 41:9-13)
- **How did Joseph know what the different dreams meant?** Guide kids to discuss the fact that God gave Joseph the power to understand dreams. Remind kids that Joseph did not decide what the dreams meant, he merely explained what God revealed to him.
- **How does God reveal things to us today?** Help kids see that, although God can communicate with us through dreams if He chooses, He has revealed everything we need to know about Him and the gospel through the Bible. God used different men over time to write down exactly what God wanted them to write. The Bible is God's Word, and it is trustworthy.
- **How do you think Joseph felt before and after the cupbearer told Pharaoh about him?** Guide kids to discuss the uncertainty Joseph may have felt. Remind them that, although he did not totally understand God's plan, He trusted God to take care of him.

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, plastic cups, sharpie

What You Do:

- Write each word or phrase of the memory verse on a separate plastic cup.
- Encourage the kids to each grab a cup and arrange them in the correct order.
- Then read the memory verse a few times.

What You Say • In our story today, God used Joseph to explain the cupbearer's dream to him. When the cupbearer did eventually remember Joseph, God was working out His plan to save Jacob's family. Our memory verse teaches us that God has been the God of Israel since their time in Egypt, and only He can save. That points us to Jesus because He is God the Son, and only He can save people from sin.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.