



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 Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Story Point Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles.
- Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 40.
- Remind kids that today's Bible story comes from three chapters in Genesis: chapters 39–41.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 40:8.

What You Say • God was with Joseph, even when he was in prison! We saw in our story today that **God gave Joseph power to understand dreams**. After Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, Pharaoh made Joseph an important ruler in Egypt

2. Discussion Questions:

1. **Where does wisdom come from? How can we have wisdom and understanding?**
Point out that wisdom doesn't always come with age. Wisdom is understanding how life works best, and because God created everything, wisdom comes from Him. God gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 1:5.)
2. **How did Joseph have confidence before the most powerful ruler of Egypt?** *Guide kids to recognize how Joseph trusted in God's plan for his life. Joseph believed the*



dreams from God that meant he would one day be a ruler.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 13:6.)

3. **Joseph was in prison for more than two years. How can we trust God's timing in our lives?** *Remind kids that God is in control. He sees the bigger picture and works everything for His glory and our good. God's timing is always perfect.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:6.)

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, several copies of Memory Verse Poster, scissors, ziptop bags or paper bags

What You Do:

- Before the session, print a few extra copies of the memory verse poster.
- Cut each poster into several large pieces and place the pieces in a bag.
- Form groups of kids based on the number of posters you prepared.
- Give each group a bag and challenge groups to put together the memory verse puzzle.
- When kids finish, lead them to say the memory verse together.

What You Say • Great job, everyone. Keep working to memorize our memory verse. We'll practice it again next week!

Pray and Dismiss

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

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, thanking God for Jesus. Give Him the honor He deserves, acknowledging that He humbled Himself to come to earth and save sinners because He loves us.

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