



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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

There You Are!

What You Need: large blanket or sheet

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams of kids.
- If your kids do not know each other well, review names before playing.
- Instruct players to sit with their team, several feet away from the other team.
- Choose 2 volunteers to hold a blanket between the 2 teams so players cannot see the other team.
- For each round, one player from each team will sit behind the blanket.
- Count down from 3, then the volunteers drop the blanket.
- The first player to shout out the name of the other player wins the round.
- Award a point for each correct identification.
- Play multiple rounds as time allows.
- You can also play as categories- Ask kids to tell each other a favorite food, game, sport, person at the beginning. When the blanket drops they have to say the other person's favorite of the day.

What You Say "It is so much fun to get to know our friends in a different way when we are in small group. In our stories we will talk about someone who wanted to be remembered and went through some really tough stuff to live out God's plan. Let's get ready for large group so we can see what happens."

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage- Genesis 39-41

The travelers who bought Joseph took him to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian officer named Potiphar (PAHT ih fuhr). God was with Joseph and made him successful at everything he did. Potiphar put Joseph in charge as his personal assistant.

One day, Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to sin against God and Potiphar, but Joseph refused. This made her angry, and she **accused Joseph of doing something he didn't do. Potiphar believed his wife, and Joseph went to jail.**

But God was still with Joseph and blessed him. The jail warden put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners. **One night, two of the prisoners—Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker—both had dreams. They told Joseph about dreams they had.** The cupbearer dreamed about a vine with three branches. Grapes grew on the vine, and the cupbearer squeezed them into a cup and gave it to Pharaoh. The baker dreamed that he had three baskets of bread on his head. The top basket had baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket.

Joseph told them what the dreams meant. Joseph said that in three days, the cupbearer would serve Pharaoh again; but the baker would not because in three days, he would be put to death. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him and to tell Pharaoh that he did not deserve to be in jail.



The cupbearer did serve Pharaoh again, but he forgot about Joseph. Two years later, Pharaoh had two dreams. Pharaoh saw seven fat cows eaten by seven skinny cows, and seven fat heads of grain eaten by seven thin heads. **No one knew what these dreams meant! Finally, the cupbearer remembered Joseph.**

God told Joseph what Pharaoh's dreams meant, and Joseph explained the dreams to Pharaoh. "The dreams represent seven years when plenty of food will grow followed by seven years when no food will grow. You should choose someone to save food during the good years to use during the bad years."

Pharaoh realized that God was with Joseph, so he made Joseph second in command in all of Egypt. No one was more powerful than Joseph except for Pharaoh himself. **Joseph stored away food during the good years. When the famine came, people from every land came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.**

CONTEXT

Jacob had recognized his favorite son's bloody robe and concluded that his 17-year-old son had been torn apart by a vicious animal. He was devastated by the news of Joseph's apparent death. No one could comfort Jacob. (Gen. 37:33-35)

For the next 20 years, Jacob lived with the grief of losing a child. But Scripture shows us what Jacob couldn't see: God was with Joseph, making him successful and blessing him in Egypt. Joseph worked for Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh, but when Potiphar's wife falsely accused him of attacking her, Joseph ended up in prison.

God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams. Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker were also in custody when they each had a dream on the same night. "Interpretations belong to God," Joseph explained. Then Joseph told them what the dreams meant. The cupbearer would be restored to his position, but the baker would be executed.

Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream which no one could interpret. But the cupbearer remembered Joseph and his ability to interpret dreams, and Pharaoh summoned Joseph. God revealed what would happen: there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Pharaoh took action, putting Joseph into a position of power to help prepare Egypt for the future. He recognized that Joseph was wise and that God was with him. God blessed Joseph. In one day, Joseph moved from his position in prison to being second in command of Egypt. God had elevated Joseph so he could save the lives of many—even his own people—during the severe famine.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams so that He could use Him.
- Pharaoh realized that God was with Joseph so pulled him from prison.
- Joseph didn't know how God would work, but he trusted God even when it was hard.
- **BL:** Because nothing is too hard for God, we can always count on him.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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.)

4. **Why did Joseph go to prison?** *(Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of something, and Potiphar believed her, Gen. 39:16-19)*
5. **Whose dreams did Joseph explain in prison?** *(the cupbearer's and the baker's, Gen. 40:5-19)*
6. **When did the cupbearer remember Joseph?** *(two years later when Pharaoh needed dreams explained, Gen. 41:9-13)*
7. **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.*
8. **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.*
9. **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.*

Activity: Cup Stack Relay

What You Need: Red plastic cups (20), Blue plastic cups (2), Sharpie (optional)

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams of kids and provide each team with 11 cups, 10 red and 1 blue.
- Invite each team of kids to gather around their stack of cups and take turns removing the top cup and placing it on the bottom of the stack.
- Kids will continue removing the top cup and placing it on the bottom until the blue cup gets back to the top.
- It is a relay, so each team will move only one cup at a time and then the next person will move 1 cup taking turns.

What You Say "God gave Joseph power to understand dreams. The cupbearer was excited to get his job back, just as Joseph said he would, but he forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph. Two years later, when the cupbearer remembered Joseph, God used Joseph to explain Pharaoh's dreams and prepare Egypt for a great famine. In that way, God was preparing to use Joseph to save his family. From Jacob's family, Jesus would eventually be born. Jesus came to save us from sin. BL- **Because nothing is too hard for God, we can always count on Him.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Crazy Stand Ups Categories List

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Then tell the group you are going to call out some categories.
- If the kids fit in the that category they all stand up and say the verse together.
- You can use these categories or make up your own. (See if kids remember categories from your social time together.)



All Star Kids

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Kinder – 2nd grade

- Stand up if you are a girl/boy
- Stand up if you do not share your bedroom
- Stand up if you are wearing sandals/boots/tennis shoes
- Stand up if you had pancakes/cereal/eggs/waffles/donuts for breakfast
- Stand up if you ride a bike/skateboard/roller skates
- Stand up if you have any brothers/sisters
- Stand up if you are the oldest/youngest in your family
- Stand up if you hate spinach/zucchini/Brussel sprouts/bean
- Stand up if you are wearing red/yellow/blue/pink
- Stand up if you own a dog/cat/goat/lizard
- Stand up if your birthday is in January/June/November
- Stand up if you can fold your tongue in half
- Stand up if your eyes are brown/blue
- Stand up if you took a vacation
- Stand up if you love God

What You Say "It is so fun to get to know our friends and learn our memory verse together. Next time you can help me come up with a category to use in our game. Our Memory Verse reminds us that God has always had a plan and that Jesus is that plan. We can trust God because He can do anything."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, thank you for working things together for Your glory and our good. Help us learn to trust You more each day. Amen."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents Joseph and the cupbearer. What was God doing? . BL- **Because nothing is too hard for God, we can always count on Him**