

# Joseph's Dream Explained

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 39-41

**Memory Verse:** <sup>4</sup>“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.*

## LEADERNOTES:

### 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.

### TEACHING FOCUS (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.**

#### 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.**

#### **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

#### **Duck, Duck, Goose (or More, More, Most)**

**What you Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Sit the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Ask for a volunteer to stand outside the circle.
- Guide her to walk around the outside of the circle, tapping (gently) each child on the shoulder while calling "duck...duck...duck" until finally calling "goose".
- The child she tapped last will get up and chase the volunteer around the circle, trying to tag her to determine who will be "It" next.

- You could change the words up and use “more...more...more” and then “most” as way to relate to the Bible story and Joseph with his brothers and dad.

**What You Say:**

“When we play games, like duck, duck, goose, it reminds us that sometimes we win and sometimes God has other plans. Our story the next few weeks should help us see that God can do anything, even when people seem to mess up or make different plans. He made a way for our Savior to be born, in the middle of some really impossible situations.”

## **Worship Time**

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** “Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today.”

## **Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

### **Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Place a bookmark at Genesis 39 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:** “ The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true! The Bible has 2 parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament tells about the things that happened before Jesus was born. Let's hear today's true story about how God used Joseph in His plan.

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

#### **Talk about the Bible Story:**

Joseph worked in Egypt for a man named Potiphar. Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph, and Joseph went to jail. God was with Joseph. A cupbearer and a baker who worked for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, were in jail too. They had strange dreams. God helped Joseph explain their dreams, and their dreams came true! One night, Pharaoh had a strange dream too. The cupbearer remembered Joseph's help, and Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Pharaoh had a dream about seven fat, healthy cows and

seven skinny, sick cows. Joseph said, "God showed that you will have seven years of good food and seven years of no food. Choose someone to gather food during the good years." Pharaoh chose Joseph to be in charge of the food and all of Egypt!

### Learn the Big Picture Question

**What You Say:** Remember last week's Bible story? Joseph's brothers did a wrong thing by sending him to Egypt, but God used their wrong choice to do a good thing! **Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things.**

### Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Hosea 13:4. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

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

Transition to small group.

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

### 1. Joseph Works

**What You Need:** kitchen scale, uncooked grains, bowls, spoons, cups, paper, clipboard, and marker

**What You Do:**

- Demonstrate how to spoon different types of uncooked grains into cups and place them on a kitchen scale.
- Encourage kids to take turns recording the weight on a clipboard.
- Uncooked grains can include rice, corn kernels, oats, wheat germ, quinoa, couscous, and so forth.
- Ask kids to make observations about the different grains.
- How would you take care of each of these grains if you were the farmer who had to get them to market or Joseph?
- Which grains do you like to eat most?

**What You Say** "God was with Joseph. He gave Joseph a big job in Egypt with a lot of responsibility. Joseph was in charge of gathering and storing grain so the people would not run out of food during the seven years when not much would grow. God used Joseph to save many people from starving. God sent Jesus to rescue people from sin and death when He died on the cross. **Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things.**

### 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What you need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**But I have been the Lord your God** (point to God), **ever since you came out of Egypt.** (act like you are riding a horse) **You shall acknowledge** (point to your head like you are thinking) **no God but me** (point to God), **no Savior except me.** (make the sign for Jesus [point to the holes in his hands, first left then right hand]) **Hosea 13:4**
- Our memory verse comes from a prophet named Hosea. This prophet gives God's messages to His people. God wanted His people to know that He is the only God and Savior.

**What You Say:** Throughout Israel's history, God's messenger to His people would point back to the time they spent in Egypt and the wonderful way God rescued them. This story is the start of how God's people ended up in Egypt! All along, God was their God. He is the one true God, and only He can save.

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You need:** coloring page.

**What You Do:**

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

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the coloring page and tell families that today we learned we can always count on God, because He can do anything.