

STORY: GENESIS: JOSEPH PROMOTED TO GLORY (Genesis 40-41)

REVIEW

What happened to Joseph after he was sold to traders?

He became a slave of Potiphar.

The Lord was with him and he was successful in what he did.

Potiphar put Joseph in-charge of his household.

Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to sleep with her. He refused.

She got angry and lied that he attacked her.

Potiphar put Joseph in prison.

But he found favour with the prison warden who put him in charge of the prison.

STORY

Older kids can read **Genesis chapter 40:1-41:41** together.

Else paraphrase for the younger kids.

Joseph in prison

Later, Pharaoh became angry with his baker and wine server, so he put them in the same prison as Joseph. One night, both the baker and the wine server each had a dream. Joseph went to them the next morning and saw that the two men were worried.

The wine server told Joseph his dream. "I saw a vine. On the vine there were three branches. I watched the branches grow flowers and then become grapes. I was holding Pharaoh's cup, so I took the grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I gave the cup to Pharaoh."

Joseph explained the dream to the wine server. He said, "The three branches mean three days. Before the end of three days, Pharaoh will forgive you and you will be Pharaoh's wine server again. Remember me. Tell Pharaoh about me so that I can get out of this prison. I have done nothing wrong! I should not be in prison."

The baker also told Joseph his dream. He dreamed there were three baskets of bread on his head. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked food for the king, but birds were eating this food.

Joseph told him that, "The three baskets mean three days. Before the end of three days, the king will take you out of this prison and cut off your head! He will hang your body and the birds will eat it."

Three days later, Pharaoh freed the wine server and gave him his job back. But Pharaoh hanged the baker. Everything happened the way Joseph said it would. But the wine server forgot about Joseph.

Pharaoh's Dreams

Two years later, Pharaoh dreamed he saw seven healthy, good-looking cows came out of the river and stood there eating grass. Then seven more cows came out of the river and stood on the bank of the river by the healthy cows. But these cows were thin and looked sick. The seven sick cows ate the seven healthy cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

Pharaoh went back to sleep and began dreaming again. This time he dreamed that he saw seven heads of grain growing on one plant. They were healthy and full of grain. Then he saw seven more heads of grain but they were thin and scorched by the hot wind. The thin heads of grain ate the seven good heads of grain. Then Pharaoh woke up again. The next morning Pharaoh was worried about these dreams, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told these men the dreams, but none of them could explain the dreams.

Then the wine server remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about Joseph. So Pharaoh called Joseph. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can explain it for me. I heard you can explain dreams." Joseph answered, "I cannot but God can explain the dream for you." Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams.

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of these dreams have the same meaning. God is telling you what will happen soon. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are seven good years where there will be plenty of food in Egypt. The seven thin, sick-looking cows and the seven thin heads of grain mean that there will be seven years of hunger. These seven bad years will come after the seven good years. It will be so bad that the people will forget how much food there had been in Egypt.

So, Pharaoh, you should choose a wise, intelligent man and put him in charge of Egypt. Then you should choose other men to collect food from the people. During the seven good years, the people must give them one-fifth of all the food they grow. All the food collected during the seven good years will be stored in the cities until it is needed. Pharaoh, this food will be under your control. Then during the seven years of hunger, there will be food for Egypt, which will not be destroyed by the famine."

Then Pharaoh told them, "I don't think we can find anyone better than Joseph to take this job! God's Spirit is in him, making him very wise!"

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God showed these things to you, so you must be the wisest man. I will put you in charge of my country, and the people will obey all your commands. I will be the only one more powerful than you." Pharaoh made Joseph governor over all of Egypt. Joseph was 30 years old.

LESSON

The Lord was all Joseph had - and he was enough.

Joseph had nothing. He was a slave and slaves had no rights. The people who owned them can beat them to death and they will not be punished.

But Joseph rose from a slave to the second most important man in Egypt. How was he able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, when even the wisest men in Egypt could not do it?

Joseph told Pharaoh that he was not able to interpret the dream but God was able to do it.

You see, although Joseph had nothing, he had the Lord, and the Lord was enough because he gave Joseph all the wisdom he needed.

Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing". We, like Joseph too, have everything we need because we have Jesus.

God restored (gave back) to Joseph more than he lost

Joseph was 17 years old when he was sold as a slave by his own brothers. He lost his family, home and even his own rights. He spent 13 years of his life as a slave and in prison. It would almost seem like he was going nowhere and his life was wasted. But at the age of 30, God promoted Joseph to be the second most important man in Egypt, a powerful nation.

There may be times in our life when things are going wrong and we feel sad or upset. We may have lost our friends when we changed classes/school, or our brother/sister broke our favourite toy.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took all our sins and punishments so that we can have God's blessings of provision.

As God restored to Joseph more than what he lost, he will also give to us more than we lost.

Whatever sin took away from us — love, joy, peace, patience, health, wealth etc — Jesus restored on the Cross in exchange for His blood.

Genesis

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

JOSEPH: PROMOTED TO GLORY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Memory Verse activity, craft or game:

Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing".