

LESSON 24

Joseph Interprets the Dreams

GENESIS 40 – 41



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD WORKS ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 24)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 24

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Counting Seven Years

SUPPLIES: fourteen copies of a picture of a cow colored as follows: seven brown or black with white spots, seven green. Number each group from one through seven. Tape (optional)

Acting Out the Seven Years

SUPPLIES: felt (black, dark blue, yellow, orange, red, medium blue, brown, green, gray, and white) cut out as directed; Bible

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how Joseph interpreted the dreams of the chief baker, cupbearer, and Pharaoh.

Draw a red heart on the whiteboard and ask the children what it is. Next draw a smiley face in a circle and ask the children what it is. Finally draw a lightning bolt and ask them what it is.

Tell the children that sometimes things have more than one meaning. For example, the heart could represent a real human heart or it could be used to communicate love or "I love you." The smiley face could mean happy or could be given to a child as an award for a job well done. The lightning bolt could represent lightning, electricity, or power.

Say, "In today's Bible story you will hear about objects in Joseph's dream. See if you can pick them out and try to figure out what they represent."

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 24, "Joseph Interprets the Dreams," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is this story about?**
(*Joseph is thrown into prison and interprets the dreams of the baker, wine steward, and Pharaoh.*)
- **Who did Joseph say is in charge of dreams?**
(*Joseph said that dreams "belong" to God. It is God that both gives dreams and allows them to be understood.*)
- **Did things happen as Joseph said they would?**
(*Yes, God helped Joseph know what the dreams were about.*)

- **What did Pharaoh do when Joseph told him what his dream was about?**
(Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all of Egypt.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **What do you think it would be like to be thrown into prison?**
(It would be cold and dark without much to eat.)
- **Was Joseph angry that he was thrown into prison?**
(No, he tried to help the other prisoners. Joseph was not angry because he trusted God.)
- **Was God with Joseph in prison?**
(yes)
- **How can we know that God was with Joseph in prison?**
(God gave Joseph the correct meaning of the dreams.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 24—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Which person in the picture is Joseph? Which one is Pharaoh?**
- **Who can remember Pharaoh's dream?**
(See Genesis 41:17-24.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Genesis 41:1–14

Can you imagine staying in prison for two whole years for something you didn't do? That's what happened to Joseph. But God had a plan to get Joseph out of prison because God had something very important for Joseph to do. He planned to use Joseph to save Israel from a terrible famine. Saving Israel was important because Jesus would one day be born into the family of Israel.

To get Joseph out of prison, God gave Pharaoh a dream that only Joseph could interpret. In a flash Joseph is out of prison, tells Pharaoh the meaning of the dream, and before you know it, Joseph is freed from prison and put in charge of Egypt. Through Joseph, God saves Israel from the terrible famine. This allowed Jesus to be born so that one day we too could be saved.

- What is the seat called that Pharaoh, King of Egypt, is sitting on?
(A king's chair is called a throne.)

Have the children color the throne gold.

- What country did Pharaoh rule?
(Egypt)

Counting Seven Years

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ fourteen copies of a picture of a cow colored as follows: seven cows are brown or black with white spots; seven cows are green
- ✓ tape (optional)

Instructions prior to class: Find a picture of a cow and print it out or photocopy it fourteen times. Color seven cows brown or black with white spots and color seven

cows green. Number the brown cows one to seven with a number in the center of the cow. Do the same with the green cows.

This activity will help the children remember the story while giving them some practice on their counting.

While in class, hold up the cows or tape them to the wall and point to them asking the children to repeat the numbers. See if there is anyone in the class who can count all seven cows. You can also ask children to tell you the number on the cows as you show them randomly. At the end of the game ask the children if they can remember what the cows represent in Pharaoh's dream.

Acting Out the Seven Years

Have the children stand up and pretend they are healthy stalks of wheat. They should put their arms in the air and spread their fingers to represent the head of the stalk.

Pretend to be the wind, and blow from one side to the other. The children should sway like they are being blown by the wind. Then tell them the seven years of abundance are over and a famine has come to the land. Have them start to shrivel up. Starting with their fingers they can curl them up and then their arms, all the way to the floor.

If you have time, do the same thing with the cows. Have the children get down on all fours and moo like cows. Announce that the years of abundance have passed and that the drought has come. The cows should all start to get weaker until they finally fall over. See if they can remember what Pharaoh's dream means.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 24 - JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAMS

