

Old Testament

Joseph and the King

Genesis 41:1-57

Younger Verse

All Scripture is given from God and is useful for teaching . 2 Timothy 3:16

Older Verse

All Scripture is given from God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live right.2 Timothy 3:16

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever had a dream that you remembered when you woke up?
Let’s see what happens today when the king has a dream.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Remember from last week, Joseph was in jail. He stayed in jail TWO YEARS!
During that time he loved God with all his heart.

One day the king had a dream. No one could figure out what it meant. Suddenly the drink taster remembered that Joseph told him exactly what would happen to him—two years ago.

The king sent for Joseph and told him the dreams.

The king shared how he dreamed about 7 fat cows that grazed by the river. Then, he saw 7 ugly, thin cows that came out of the river and ate the 7 fat cows. This dream was puzzling to the king.

Next, the king told Joseph about another dream he had that night. He saw 7 heads of grain on one stalk. They were healthy and good. Then, 7 thin and dry heads of grain on a stalk eat the 7 healthy heads of grain.

Joseph boldly told the king that he could not interpret his dreams but God would help him understand them. Joseph told the king that there would be 7 years of lots of food then 7 years without much food (there would be a famine.)

When the king heard Joseph’s answers, he knew that God had brought him to help their country. He put a beautiful robe on Joseph and gave him a ring and gold necklace. He even got to ride in a chariot! The king put Joseph in charge of collecting extra grain

Lesson Goals

See how God took care of Joseph even during the hard times
Share a way that Joseph told the king about God
Tell others about God like Joseph did

for the hard times that would come.

Sure enough there were 7 great years. During that time, Joseph collected the grain and stored it in warehouses like silos. There was so much grain that they could not measure how much they had!

During that time, Joseph got married and had 2 sons. He named the first one Manasseh which means “God has helped me forget my problems” and the second one was named Ephraim which means “God has been good to me through my sufferings.”

After the 7 good years came, 7 hard years came, just as God showed Joseph. The famine was so severe that the people cried out to the king to help them.

The king told them to come and receive help through Joseph. Everyone came to Egypt to buy food for their families.

Next week we will finish the story when Joseph faces his brothers.

During all the hard times Joseph went through, he was never bitter or mad at God. He even told the king about God! Joseph trusted God in good times and hard times. God took care of him.

In our life, we may have friends or family that are going through hard times. We can help them see that God is still with us and cares for us during the hard times. Just as God took care of Joseph, He will help us through the hard times.

Another thing to remember is that Joseph gave God the credit for understanding the dreams. He knew that his help came from God. God helped us in a bigger way, too. God made a way for us to go to Heaven if we believe in Him. He knew that on our own, we could never get to Heaven. So, God sent His Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to get to Heaven if we believe. Jesus died for all the bad things we have done. If we believe that He died and rose again for us, we can ask Jesus to come into our lives and direct our lives. He cleans out all the junk and helps us live for God. Would you like to have God direct your life? Talk to us during activity time.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

Say the verse together and talk about how this story is “useful for teaching.” Get the kids to tell you how this lesson is important.

Prayer Time

Pray and thank God that he cares for us and helps us during good and bad times.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together.

Planning for Lesson 22
Joseph meets his family
Genesis 42—45

Preschool Lesson
For
Joseph and the king

Make a cow puppet to tell the story.

Remember from last week, Joseph was in jail. He stayed in jail TWO YEARS!
During that time he loved God with all his heart.

One day the king had a dream. No one could figure out what it meant. Suddenly the drink taster remembered that Joseph told him exactly what would happen to him—two years ago.

The king sent for Joseph and told him the dreams.

The king shared how he dreamed about 7 fat cows that grazed by the river. Then, he saw 7 ugly, thin cows that came out of the river and ate the 7 fat cows. (Count to 7 with the kids).

Next, the king told Joseph about another dream he had that night. He saw 7 heads of grain on one stalk. They were healthy and good. Then, 7 thin and dry heads of grain on a stalk eat the 7 healthy heads of grain.

Joseph boldly told the king that he could not interpret his dreams but God would help him understand them. Joseph told the king that there would be 7 years of lots of food then 7 years without much food.

When the king heard Joseph's answers, he knew that God had brought him to help their country. He put a beautiful robe on Joseph and gave him a ring and gold necklace. He even got to ride in a chariot! The king put Joseph in charge of collecting extra grain for the hard times that would come.

Sure enough there were 7 great years. During that time, Joseph collected the grain and stored it in warehouses like silos. There was so much grain that they could not measure how much they had!

After the 7 good years came, 7 hard years came, just as God showed Joseph. The hard times were so bad that the people cried out to the king to help them.

The king told them to come and get help through Joseph. Everyone came to Egypt to buy food for their families.

God took care of Joseph and His people. He will take care of us too.

Hands-On Activities
For
Joseph and the king

Make the “Gleaming Glasses” to remember how Joseph could understand dreams with God’s help.

Create a cow mobile to remember the dream and how God took care of His people.

Eat chocolate milk and bread to remember the story of the cows and the grain.

Decorate small rings for everyone or make them with sequins or craft thread.

Bring colorful sheets or shirts. Pretend that the king is putting a beautiful robe on you just like he did for Joseph.

Braid gold thread or yarn together to make a gold chain like the king put on Joseph’s neck. Take pictures of the kids with their rings, robes and chains. Talk about how God took care of Joseph even when he had to wait 2 years in jail!
