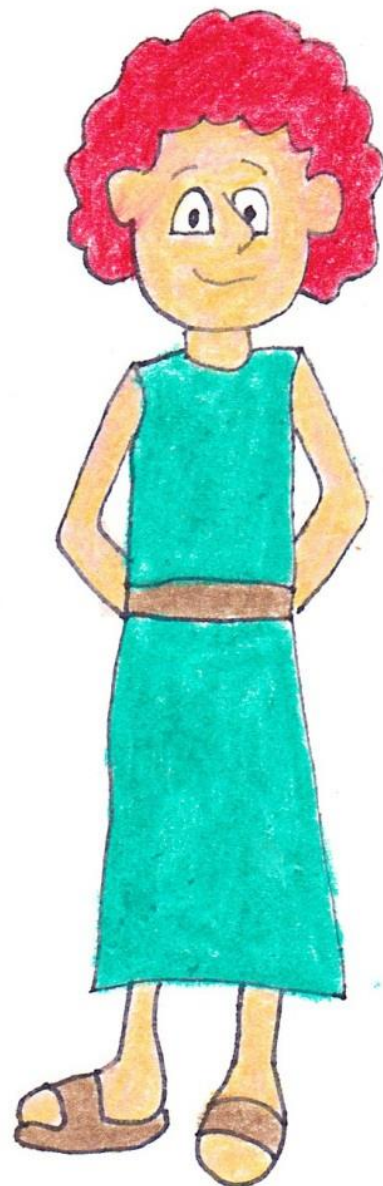
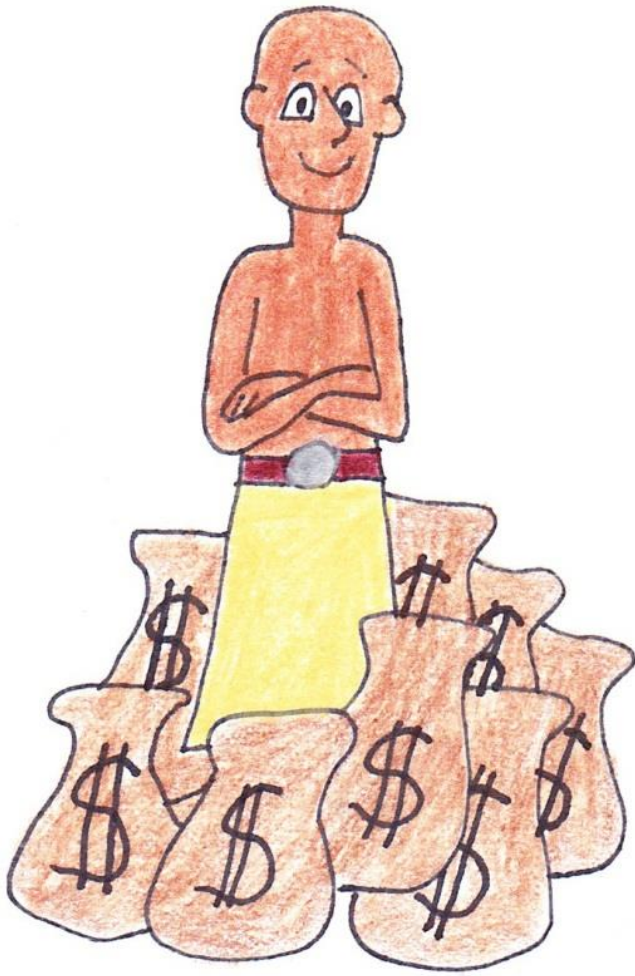


# Joseph's luck turns worse?

## Genesis 39:1-41:36





Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelites and sold to Potiphar. Joseph excelled at everything he did. Potiphar saw how successful Joseph was and put him in charge of all Potiphar had.





Potiphar's wife liked Joseph a lot and wanted to kiss him. Joseph knew it was wrong and kept telling her no.

One day she trapped him in the house, but Joseph ran away so fast he left his cloak behind. This was the final straw for her, so she took the cloak to Potiphar and lied, "The Hebrew you bought tried to kiss me, but I screamed and he ran away. See he left his cloak behind."



Potiphar was furious. This Hebrew had humiliated him, and in his anger he threw Joseph in jail.

But even in jail God helped Joseph as He had all this time. The man in charge of the jail took a liking to Joseph and put him in charge of the other prisoners.

Just as happened with Potiphar, when Joseph was in charge of the jail there was no need to worry about anything.







It so happened that Pharaoh's cupbearer, one of his most trusted servants made Pharaoh angry, so he was thrown in jail. At that same time Pharaoh's baker was thrown in jail.

One day Joseph saw them and noticed both were sad and confused.

"What is the matter?" he asked.



“I had the worst dream,” answered the cupbearer. “I dreamed there were 3 branches and they had grapes. Suddenly I had Pharaoh’s cup and I made wine with the grapes, and then Pharaoh drank the wine. What does it mean?”

Joseph smiled, “God has shown me what this means. In three days Pharaoh will give you your old job back. Please, when this happens, tell Pharaoh about me.”

The baker hurried forward to tell his dream, “I dreamed I had three baskets full of bread, but then birds came down and ate up all the bread.”

Joseph frowned and shook his head, “I’m sorry to say but the dream means you will be executed in three days.” It all happened just as Joseph said. The cupbearer got his job back and the baker was executed, but the cupbearer forgot his promise.





Two years passed and Pharaoh had a terrible dream. He dreamed seven fat cows were eating by the banks of the Nile River. Then seven skinny cows came up beside them and they ate the fat cows, but the skinny cows didn't get any fatter.

He dreamed again and there were seven good heavy grains all on the same stalk. Then seven scrawny grains grew on that same branch, and then they swallowed up the fat grains. Just like the cows the skinny grains were as skinny as ever.

Pharaoh woke up scared out of his mind.





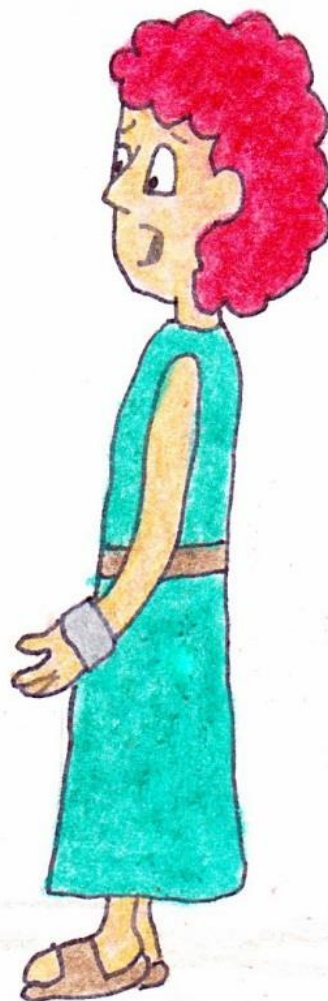
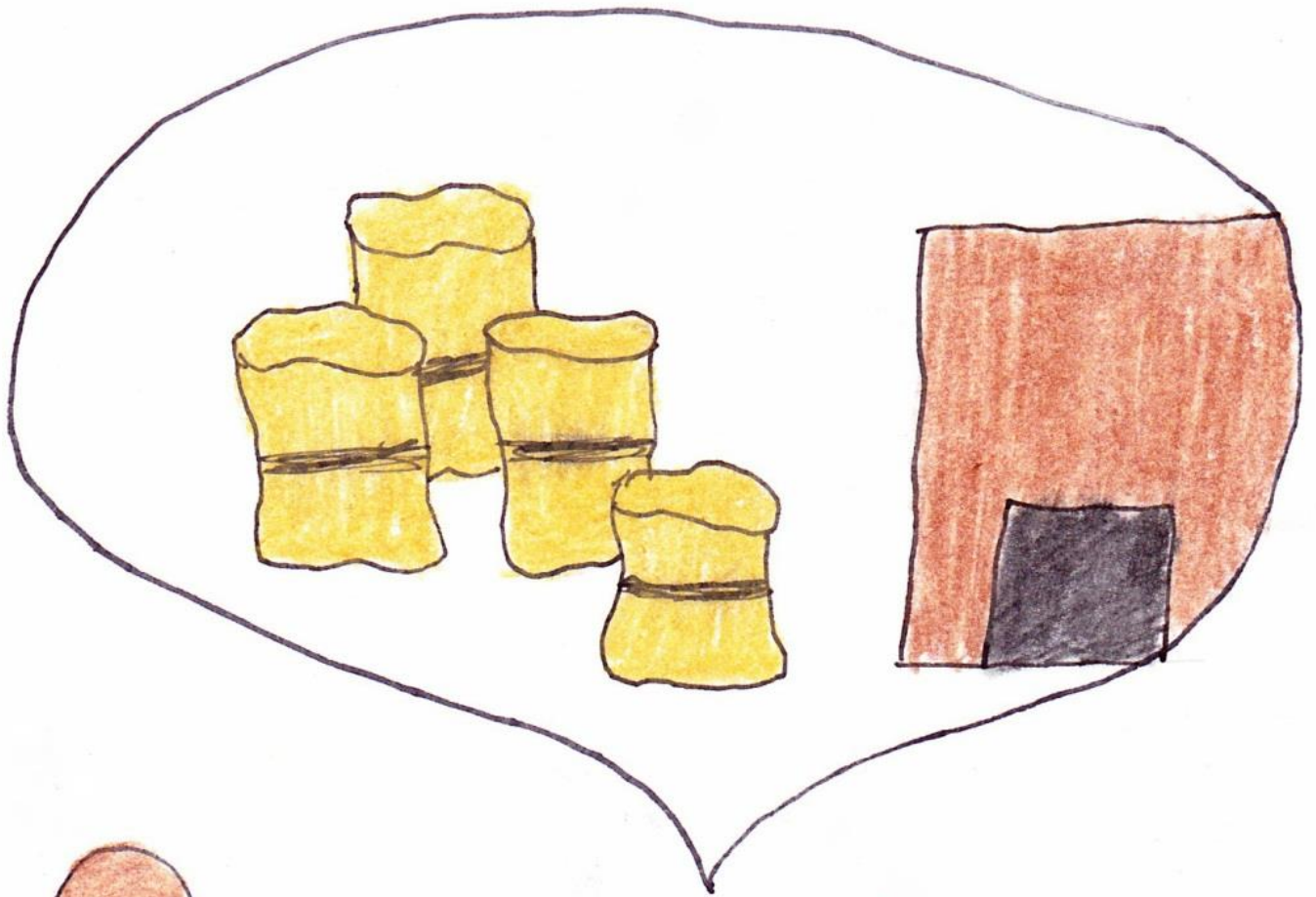
Pharaoh summoned all of his magicians and wise men. He told them all about his dream, and asked what it meant.

They guessed and guessed, but no one could say for sure what the dream meant.

Suddenly the cupbearer said, “I just remembered someone who could help you. When I was in jail I had a dream and a Hebrew explained it all to me. Every word of it came true.”

Pharaoh called Joseph up from jail, and had him cleaned up. “Can you tell me what my dreams mean?” asked Pharaoh.

“I can not,” Joseph answered, “but God can.” Pharaoh explained all about his dreams and what happened. Joseph nodded and listened.



“Both of these dreams reveal the same thing. The seven fat cows and seven heads of grain are seven years of plenty. For the next seven years you will have more food than ever before. However the seven skinny cows and seven heads of bad grain are seven years of drought and famine. You dreamed it twice because God will surely do this.” Joseph explained.

“What should we do?” Pharaoh asked aghast at the future.

“You need to find a wise man, one you can trust to be in charge. During the seven good years tax the people  $\frac{1}{5}$  of their profit. Take what you are given and store it away for future times.”

Pharaoh thought over what Joseph suggested and realized it was a good plan. He immediately put Joseph in charge of everything and started putting his plan into effect.



# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. Is Joseph a good worker, even in hard times?
2. How did Joseph react to Potiphar's wife?
3. What did Joseph do to help the cupbearer and baker?
4. Was the cupbearer a good friend?

## Middle Kids

1. What reason did Joseph give for not doing what Potiphar's wife wanted? Genesis 39:9.
2. What did Joseph do when she trapped him? Read Genesis 39:12.
3. Has anyone ever lied about you and gotten you in trouble?
4. Read Genesis 40:6. How did Joseph befriend the cupbearer and baker?
5. Who gives us our talents? Knowing that what should you do? Read Genesis 40:8.
6. How can you plan for your future? Read Genesis 41:35-36.

## Older Guys

1. There is a lot of argument now about taxation. What does the Bible say about it? Read Genesis 41:34 and Matthew 22:15-22. What should be our response? Is there a right way to disagree with the government?<sup>1</sup>
2. Read Genesis 41:35-36. What is Joseph advising they do? How have you planned for your future?
3. Read Genesis 41:37-41. Read this and write down everything Pharaoh does. What things can you pull from this to do? What leadership qualities do you see?

## Activities

1. Talk with your family and look for God's unseen hand. How had He moved your family to where they are now?
2. Joseph is unfairly imprisoned and still works hard. Talk through how you can be faithful and a good example in hard times.

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<sup>1</sup> Just for the record, I do not think the Genesis passage is an endorsement of a tax structure, just a record of what Egypt did in that particular situation. That being said, I do think this is an important thing to discuss and think through.

3. Potiphar's wife tag- Potiphar's wife is trying to tag you and if you are caught then you are put in jail. She wins if she can successfully get three other players in jail (scale this for number of players).

### Online

1. Joseph in jail activities- <http://sunday-school-fun-zone.com/freelessons/josephseries.html>
2. Pharaoh's dream printables- <http://ourcountryroad.blogspot.com/2012/02/bible-activity-book-pharaohs-dream-free.html>
3. Baker and Cup bearer's dreams printables- <http://www.churchhousecollection.com/joseph-interprets-the-bakers-dream-cutout-sheet.php>