

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 6 • Week 2

JOSEPH IN PRISON

OBJECTIVE:

To show that because Joseph was faithful to God and obeyed Him, God caused his ways to prosper.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Divide the children into two or three groups. Ask the following questions to help review the previous lesson. Award points for giving right answers to see which group wins. Provide little trinkets or prizes as rewards. Give all the children a small reward, but let the winners choose first. (You may add or delete questions depending on the size of your group).

- Ask:
- Who was given a coat of many colors?
 - How did Joseph's brothers feel about him having this special coat?
 - What was Joseph's first dream?
 - What was the meaning of this dream?
 - What was the second dream?
 - What was the meaning of this dream?
 - Who wanted to save Joseph from being killed?
 - Who suggested that they sell Joseph as a slave?
 - To whom did they sell Joseph?
 - Where were the Ishmaelites going?
 - In what animal's blood was Joseph's coat dipped?
 - What did Jacob think had happened to Joseph?

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Today we will find out what happened to Joseph after he was sold to the Ishmaelites who took him to Egypt. This story is taken from Genesis 39:20-41:40.

When the Ishmaelites arrived in Egypt, they sold Joseph to a powerful man, Potiphar, who

was captain of the guard in Pharaoh's army.

Ask: Who was Pharaoh?

Say: Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt. We could say he was the king in Egypt.

You can see what an important person Joseph was sold to. Joseph was a good worker and was well liked in Potiphar's house. He did so well that Potiphar made him the head of his household. Because Joseph worked hard despite the fact that he was a slave, God blessed him. God also blessed Potiphar through Joseph, and all Potiphar's business deals went well.

Now Joseph was very handsome, and Potiphar's wife tried to get him to break the seventh commandment.

Ask: Do you know the seventh commandment, and what it means?

Say: Adultery is when someone is unfaithful to or cheats on one's husband or wife.

Joseph refused to disobey God's law. This made Potiphar's wife mad, and she told a lie on Joseph. She said that Joseph had tried to do her harm. Potiphar believed his wife. He became very angry and had Joseph thrown into prison.

Ask: How do you think Joseph felt?

Say: He was probably very puzzled. He had obeyed God; he had been honest and good to his master, yet he had been thrown into prison for something he did not do.

While in prison Joseph continued to obey God, remaining faithful to what is right. The jailer was so impressed with Joseph that he put him in charge of all the other prisoners. (We can see how God is causing everything Joseph does to prosper eventually).

Among the prisoners there was one who had once been a butler and one who had once been a baker in Pharaoh's palace. These men both had dreams which seemed strange to them and therefore bothered them. Joseph saw that they were sad, and he told them that with God's help he could help them understand their dreams. God helped Joseph to explain the dreams to the butler and the baker. He told the butler that in three days he would be working for Pharaoh again. The baker was told that he would be hanged. The dreams came true. The butler got his old job back. Joseph asked the butler to let Pharaoh know that Joseph was put in prison falsely.

Two long years passed before Pharaoh got to hear about Joseph. Pharaoh had two strange dreams that he could not understand. He called all his wise men but they could not tell him what his dreams meant. It was then that the butler remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh that Joseph had correctly interpreted his and the baker's dreams. Pharaoh immediately sent for

Joseph. He told Joseph that he dreamed that he stood on the bank of the river when suddenly seven fat healthy cows came out of the river to feed. A short while afterwards seven very ugly bony cows came out of the river and ate up the fat cows. They were still just as skinny after they had eaten the fat cows. He awoke at this point.

He fell asleep and had another dream. This time he saw seven good heads of grain growing. Seven thin ears of grain sprang up afterwards and ate up the good grain.

Joseph told Pharaoh that God wanted him to know what was about to happen to his country, and that God would reveal the meaning of the dreams. He told Pharaoh that the two dreams meant the same thing: The seven healthy cows and the seven good ears meant that Egypt would soon enjoy seven years of plenty. This would be followed by seven years of famine where people would not have anything to eat. The thin cows and the thin ears of grain pictured the famine.

Joseph then advised Pharaoh to select a wise man to take care of Egypt. This man was to appoint officers to collect one fifth of the produce of the land during the good years. This food would be stored so that there would be enough to eat during the years of famine.

Ask: If you have five ears of corn, how much would one fifth of them be?

Say: Yes, the answer is one.

Pharaoh was very pleased with the advice that Joseph gave. He told all his servants that Joseph was a man of God. He did not stop there. He made Joseph ruler over Egypt, second in power only to himself. Pharaoh took his ring off his finger and gave it to Joseph. He also gave him fine clothes and a gold chain.

Joseph had obeyed God through some very difficult times. He remained faithful, and God caused things to go very well for him.

Ask: Do you remember Joseph's dreams when he lived with his family? Do you think that they will come true?

Say: Joseph now had great power. We will see in later lessons whether his family will bow down to him as he saw in his dreams. Stay tuned as we approach the years of famine.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Pencils

Copies of activity sheet (see end of lesson)

Make copies of the "Find Out What Happened to the Butler and the Baker" activity sheet. Students should use the code to reveal the meaning of the butler's and the baker's dreams.

Music:

Sing page 7 from the United Church of God hymnal entitled "Blest and Happy Is the Man."

Blest and happy is the man
Who does never walk astray,
Nor with the ungodly men
Stands in sinners' way.

All he does prospers well,
But the wicked are not so;
They are chaff before the wind,
Driven to and fro.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 31:23 "Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful...."

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER!

Use the following code to fill in the blanks and find the answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
A	B	D	E	F	G	H	K	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W

15 7 4 2 1 8 4 13

17 1 14 7 1 10 6 4 3

15 7 4 2 16 15 9 4 13

13 4 15 16 13 10 4 3 15 11 17 11 13 8

5 11 13 12 7 1 13 1 11 7

YOU HAVE INTERPRETED THE DREAMS!!!

family activity

THE POINT:

To show that because Joseph was faithful to God and obeyed Him, God caused his ways to prosper.

ASK ME...

To whom was Joseph sold?

Who caused Joseph to be thrown into prison?

While he was in prison, whose dreams did Joseph explain?

Did Joseph have a job in prison?

Describe Pharaoh's dreams?

What was the meaning of the dreams?

What happened to Joseph after he gave Pharaoh advice?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss the importance of obeying God even in bad times. Talk about how when our ways please God He blesses us. Joseph continued to obey God and God helped him to become a powerful person in a land where he was once a servant.

Read about different people in the Bible who were faithful and obedient.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 31:23 "Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful...."