



(13) Pharaoh's Dreams, Joseph Reunited with his Family Genesis 41-46 Kindergarten & 1st Grade

WARM-UP: (10 minutes)

There's that number seven in the bible again. As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, take turns tossing darts or rolling dice. If it lands on a "7" they score a point. If it lands on another number, they lose a point. (I hung a ledger sized paper on a magnetic board and put a bunch of circles on it. Some had a 7 in them.

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board "Thank You" and "Please Help" – then, let the kids share their "thank you" and "please help" requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

- How God talks to us? (Through the bible and answering our prayers)
- How do we talk to God? (Prayer)

Remind them that *we can't have a relationship with anyone, our friends or even parents, if we don't talk to them. It's important that we talk to God. He made us and no one can do the things he can, not even our moms and dads.*

Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON & ACTIVITY: (25 minutes)

Remember, Jacob has 12 sons. Who was his favorite? Joseph! Joseph's brothers sold him so he became the slave of Potiphar, a man who worked for Pharaoh. Joseph was strong and handsome so Potiphar's wife liked him. When Joseph rejected her, she lied about Joseph and he was thrown into prison. While in prison, he interpreted the Wine Taster and Baker's dreams. The Wine Taster had a good dream and was given back his old job. The Baker had a nightmare! He lost his head. In our last lesson, Joseph told the Wine Taster to remember him once he was free, to tell Pharaoh about his so he could be free too. But the Wine Taster forgot all about Joseph, so he stayed in prison longer.

We are still in the book of Genesis. What does Genesis mean? (Beginning)

PASS OUT CARTOON PAGES (Included) AND PENCILS. Today, we are going to make a cartoon of our lesson. I will read part of the story, then we will draw it. Don't worry! It doesn't have to be perfect. In fact, I use stick figures!

1. Two whole years passed and Joseph was still in prison. **How many years passed?** 2. Pharaoh had a dream. In his dream, he was standing by the Nile River. **So let's draw a river next to Pharaoh. He was the ruler of Egypt.**
2. ² Seven cows came up out of the river. They looked healthy and fat. They were eating some of the tall grass growing along the river. **How many cows? 7. Write the number of fat cows in his dream.**
3. ³ After them, seven *other* cows came up out of the Nile. They looked ugly and skinny. They were standing beside the other cows on the riverbank. ⁴ The ugly, skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh

woke up. **Gross! What did the skinny cows do? They ate the fat cows! Give your skinny cow a tongue, make him lick his lips because he just ate a fat cow. That was a crazy dream! Have you ever had a dream like that? Not me!**

4. So Pharaoh fell asleep again and had a second dream. In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. **In our picture there are only 6 grains. How many were there in the dream? 7, so draw one more grain.**
5. ⁶ After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. ⁷ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream. **What did the 7 thin, dry grains do? They swallowed the healthy ones. Write the number of skinny grains that ate the healthy ones.**
6. ⁸ In the morning he was worried. So he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams. But no one could tell him what they meant. **So, who do you think will tell him what they mean? Joseph!** The wine taster finally remembered Joseph and how he explained his dream in prison so he told Pharaoh. **Draw a big question mark beside Pharaoh because he doesn't know what his dreams mean.**
7. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I heard you can explain my dream." And Joseph said, "Nope. I can't, but God can do it!" So Pharaoh told him the dreams and Joseph, with God's help, explained them. They both meant the same thing. God was showing Pharaoh what he was about to do. There would be seven years with lots of food... and then seven years without enough food. **Draw some food on one side and make a big "x" on the other side to show there won't be any food.**
8. Joseph told him he should be someone in charge to save a fifth of the food during the seven good years of harvest, this way, they'd have food during the bad years. That was very wise! Guess what Pharaoh did. He put Joseph in charge of the land of Egypt! God was definitely still with Joseph, taking very good care of him. **Give Joseph a big smile because God is with him and he is in charge of the land.**
9. During this time, Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and then Ephraim. When the bad years came, all the people started complaining because they didn't have any food. So, they were sent to Joseph. Joseph had stored food for the people. Guess who was very hungry and needed help. Joseph's family! The ones that sold him. **Draw some food he might be wishing he had to eat.**
10. Jacob didn't know his favorite son Joseph was in charge. He didn't even know Joseph was alive! He did know there was food in Egypt so he sent the 10 older brothers to get food. Only Benjamin stayed behind. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he pretended he didn't know them. **Did Joseph know who these 10 men were? Yes! The bible says he recognized them as soon as he saw them.**

They asked for grain. Joseph called them spies. He said they could prove they weren't spies. One of them had to stay in prison while the others went back home to get Benjamin. Joseph had to hide his face from his brothers because he started to cry. **Give Joseph tears.**

11. Joseph ordered Simeon be taken and tied up in front of them. He gave all of the others grain to take back home and he even put their money for the grain in their

sacks. He didn't make them pay anything! **There were nine brothers going back and there's only 8 bags of grain. Let's draw one more.**

12. Jacob didn't want to let Benjamin go. He was afraid the Egyptian man in charge, it was really Joseph, would kill him. But the brothers talked their father into trusting them with Benjamin. Joseph saw them coming and quickly got Simeon out of prison. Then, Joseph asked about *their* father. He wanted to know if he was still alive. Joseph saw his brother Benjamin and was so happy to see him that he had to go to his room to hide his tears. **Give Joseph a big smile and tears of joy.**
13. Joseph played a trick on them. He hid a silver cup in Benjamin's bag and accused someone of stealing it. He told them that whoever had it would be his slave. **All the bags were checked and whose bag was it in? Benjamin's.** Judah begged Joseph to take him instead because his father would die if Benjamin didn't go back home. Joseph couldn't control himself any longer. He told his brothers who he was.
14. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him. **Why do you think they were afraid of Joseph? Probably because they sold him into slavery a long time ago. Draw a scared face.**
15. Joseph told them not to worry or be upset. He told them that God had a plan. His plan was for Joseph to be there so he could save lives. When Pharaoh heard Joseph's brothers were there he told him to bring his father and their families back to Egypt where he'd give them the best land. The sons went back and brought their families and their dad to Egypt. Joseph was reunited with his dad! **Draw a heart because Joseph and his dad were back together again.**

Briefly review using their drawings so they can retell the story at home. Remind them that God had a plan from the very beginning. He created man that sinned so He had a plan for Jesus to one day come so we could be saved. In this lesson, God had a plan that Joseph would be sold into slavery, but he'd take good care of him so one day he could save his family and others from the 7 years of famine. God always has a plan and He has a plan for us so we need to trust and obey him.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE & SONGS: (5 minutes) Sing the Old Testament books song and then the New Testament books songs. Then, list several books until class is over.

- If the book is in the Old Testament, have kids spin three times.
- If it's in the New Testament, have kids hop 3 times in place.



(13) Pharaoh's Dreams, Joseph Reunited with his Family

Genesis 41-46
1st & 2nd Grade

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PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board "Thank You" and "Please Help" – then, let the kids share their "thank you" and "please help" requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

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Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON & ACTIVITY: (25 minutes)

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skinny cows ate up the seven cows that looked healthy and fat. Then Pharaoh woke up. **Gross! What did the skinny cows do? They ate the fat cows! Give your skinny cow a tongue, make him lick his lips because he just ate a fat cow. That was a crazy dream! Have you ever had a dream like that? Not me!**

4. So Pharaoh fell asleep again and had a second dream. In that dream, seven heads of grain were growing on one stem. They were healthy and good. **In our picture there are only 6 grains. How many were there in the dream? 7, so draw one more grain.**
5. ⁶ After them, seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and dried up by the east wind. ⁷ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up. It had been a dream. **What did the 7 thin, dry grains do? They swallowed the healthy ones. Write the number of skinny grains that ate the healthy ones.**
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7. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I heard you can explain my dream." And Joseph said, "Nope. I can't, but God can do it!" So Pharaoh told him the dreams and Joseph, with God's help, explained them. They both meant the same thing. God was showing Pharaoh what he was about to do. There would be seven years with lots of food... and then seven years without enough food. **Draw some food on one side and make a big "x" on the other side to show there won't be any food.**
8. Joseph told him he should be someone in charge to save a fifth of the food during the seven good years of harvest, this way, they'd have food during the bad years. That was very wise! Guess what Pharaoh did. He put Joseph in charge of the land of Egypt! God was definitely still with Joseph, taking very good care of him. **Give Joseph a big smile because God is with him and he is in charge of the land.**
9. During this time, Joseph had two sons, Manasseh and then Ephraim. When the bad years came, all the people started complaining because they didn't have any food. So, they were sent to Joseph. Joseph had stored food for the people. Guess who was very hungry and needed help. Joseph's family! The ones that sold him. **Draw some food he might be wishing he had to eat.**
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Genesis 41-46
4th & 5th Grade

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PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board "Praise" – "Petition" – "Thanksgiving" – "Confession."

- Have kids give suggestions for **Praise** (ex: God is holy, amazing, awesome, our rock).
- Have kids give **Petitions** (needs/please help)
- Have kids give **Thanksgiving** (what are they thankful for)
- Remind them that in a public prayer, we typically pray that God forgives us, but we don't get specific in our **confessions**.
- Lead kids in prayer.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: (5 minutes) Review the Old Testament books song and then the New Testament books songs. Have kids look up 4 books in the bible for practice. Then, send them to Genesis 45.

BIBLE LESSON: (27 minutes)

Remember, Jacob has 12 sons. Who was his favorite? Joseph! Joseph's brothers sold him so he became the slave of Potiphar, a man who worked for Pharaoh. Joseph was strong and handsome so Potiphar's wife liked him. When Joseph rejected her, she lied about Joseph and he was thrown into prison. While in prison, he interpreted the Wine Taster and Baker's dreams. The Wine Taster had a good dream and was given back his old job. The Baker had a nightmare! He lost his head. In our last lesson, Joseph told the Wine Taster to remember him once he was free, to tell Pharaoh about his so he could be free too. But the Wine Taster forgot all about Joseph, so he stayed in prison longer.

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15. Let's see how Joseph responded. **Read Genesis 45:5-8.** Joseph told them not to worry or be upset. He told them that God had a plan. His plan was for Joseph to be there so he could save lives. When Pharaoh heard Joseph's brothers were there he told him to bring his father and their families back to Egypt where he'd give them the best land. The sons went back and brought their families and their dad to Egypt. Joseph was reunited with his dad!
Draw a heart because Joseph and his dad were back together again.

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