

Joseph, Who Became a Governor

Bible Passages: Genesis 37, 39:1-41:45

Joseph was the eleventh son among Jacob's twelve sons. Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children. His brothers of course noticed their father's partiality, and therefore hated Joseph. One night, Joseph had a dream and promptly reported the details to his brothers.

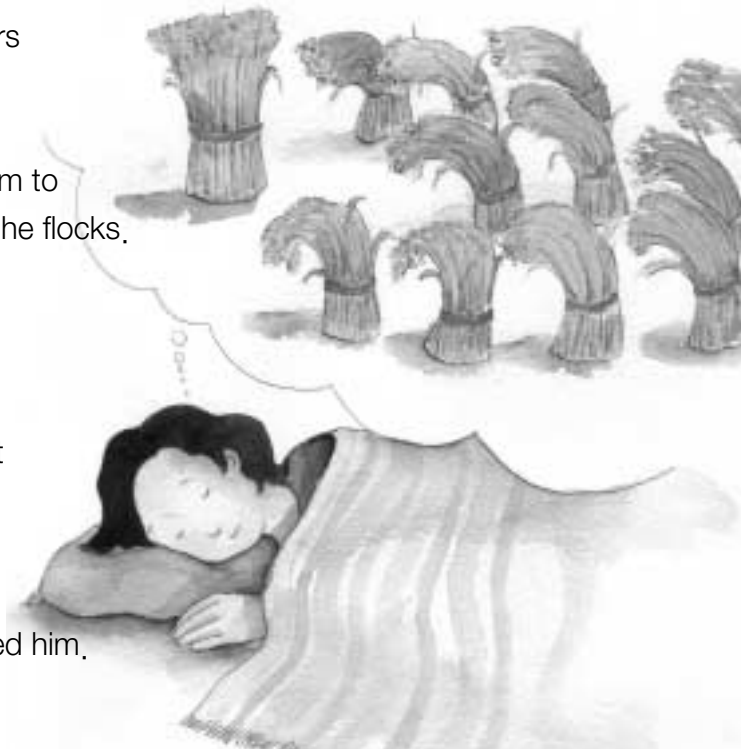
Joseph: Brothers! We were all out in the field binding bundles of grain when your bundles bowed down to my bundle. Then I had another dream: the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me.

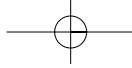
Brothers: What, then, are you saying that we're going to bow to you?

After hearing Joseph's words, his brothers hated him even more. When Joseph was 17 years old, his brothers took their father's flocks one day to Shechem to graze them there. A few days later, Jacob sent Joseph to them to see how things were going with them and the flocks.

"Hey, there's the dreamer!"

When they saw him coming, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. So they cast him into a pit, and then sold him to Midianite traders for twelve shekels of silver. To their father, they said that a wild animal had killed him.





Joseph was then sold as a slave to Potiphar, a member of the personal staff of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The Lord greatly blessed Joseph there in the home of his master so that everything he did succeeded. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph in a very special way. So he put Joseph in charge of managing Potiphar's household and business affairs. God blessed Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake.

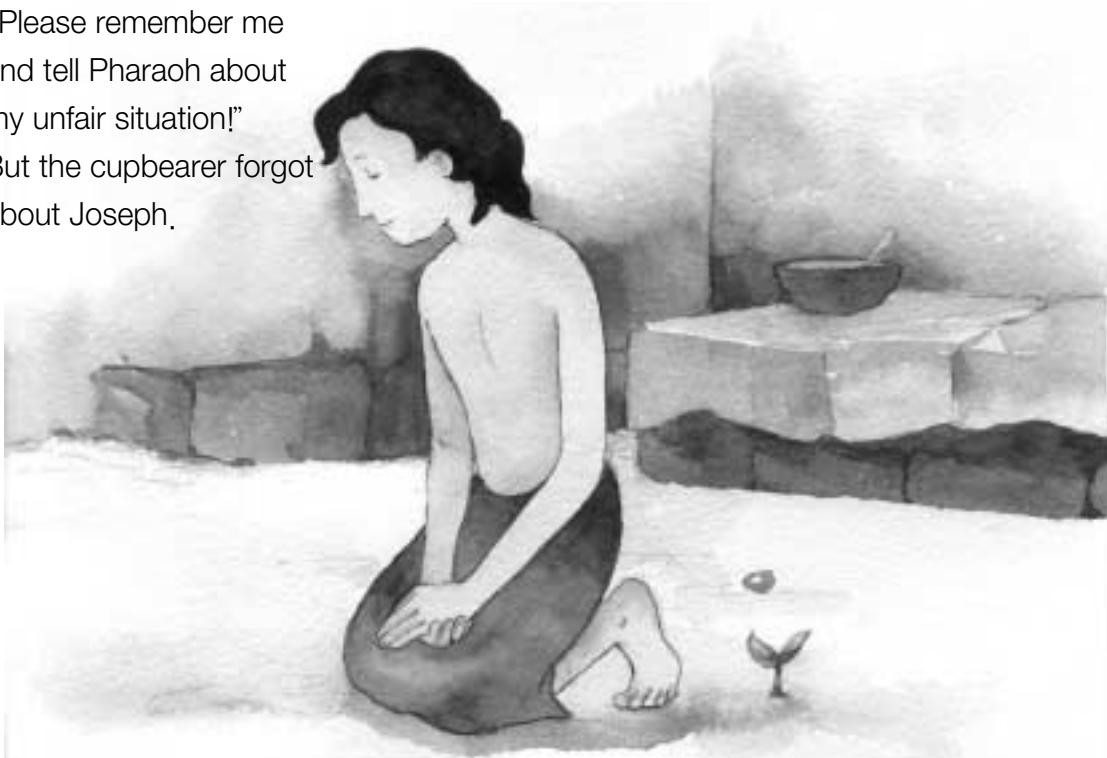
But Potiphar's wife made a lie to her husband about Joseph, leading him to be branded as a criminal. Because of this, Joseph was thrown into prison. However, Joseph did not despair and lose hope. God was with Joseph even in the prison and made everything turn out well for him. The chief jailer put Joseph in charge of prison work and the other prisoners, and he did his work with an honest devotion to it.

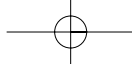
One day, the king's cupbearer and baker were jailed in the same prison that Joseph was located in, due to their own crimes. These two people each had dreams, but they were frustrated because they didn't know the meanings of their dreams. With the wisdom that was given to him by God, Joseph interpreted their dreams for them.

Three days later, the cupbearer was restored to his position while the baker was executed, which was just as Joseph had interpreted. Joseph talked to the cupbearer and said,

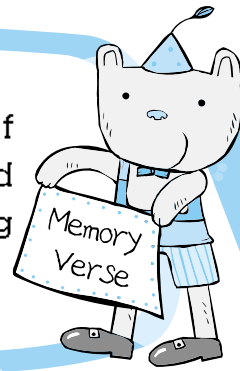
“Please remember me
and tell Pharaoh about
my unfair situation!”

But the cupbearer forgot
about Joseph.





† For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. (1 Peter 2:19)



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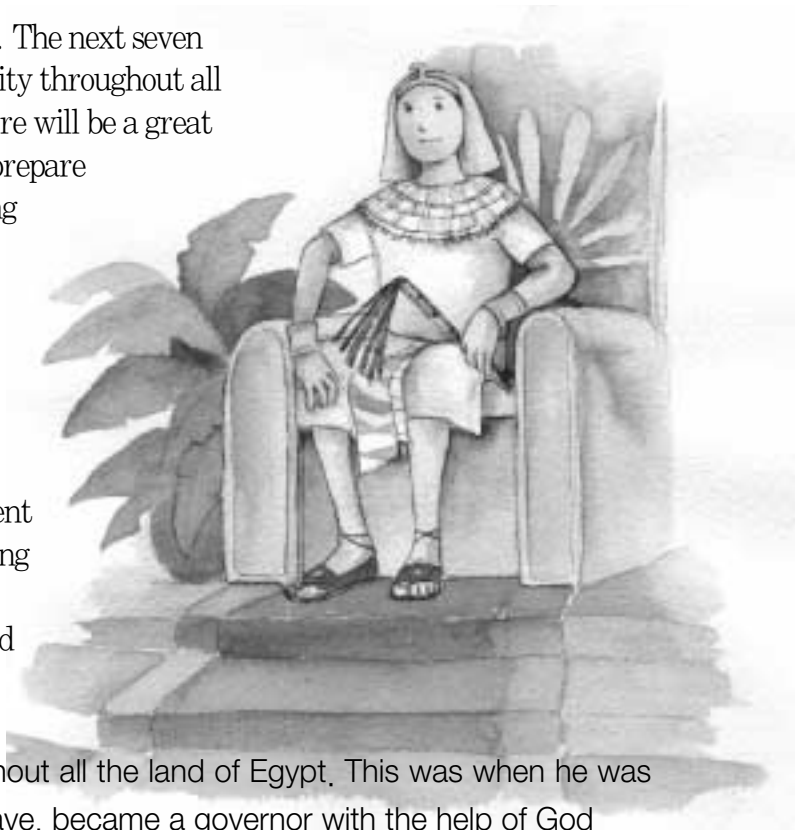
On a certain day two years later, Pharaoh had a dream where there were seven sleek and fat cows grazing in the grass. Then, seven ugly, skinny cows came and ate up the seven sleek, fat ones! Then, Pharaoh suddenly awoke, but he fell asleep again. He dreamed another dream, this time with seven heads of grain appearing on one stalk, with every kernel well formed and plump. Then, suddenly, seven more heads of grain, these shriveled and withered up by the wind, came and swallowed up the seven plump ones. After Pharaoh awoke, he wanted to know what these dreams meant. But there was no one who could tell him the meanings of these dreams. Then, the king's cupbearer remembered about Joseph. Joseph, with the help of God, interpreted Pharaoh's dream for him. He said,

“The two dreams are the same dream. The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout all the land of Egypt, but afterwards there will be a great famine for seven years. Thus, please prepare for the seven-year famine by collecting and saving food during the seven years of abundance.”

Pharaoh said to Joseph,

“Because God reveals to you all things, there will be no one as wise or intelligent as you in the country. Thus, I am putting you in charge of everything now. Now, everyone will listen to what you say and you will rule my country.”

So Joseph became famous throughout all the land of Egypt. This was when he was 30 years old. Joseph, the former slave, became a governor with the help of God.





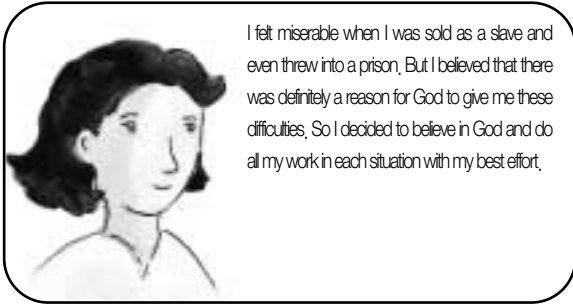
Today's Study

Joseph's Sufferings

1. What kind of sufferings did Joseph face?

2. Joseph suffered for a long time, even though he was innocent. How did Joseph feel about this?

3. How did Joseph solve the problems of his sufferings?



I felt miserable when I was sold as a slave and even threw into a prison. But I believed that there was definitely a reason for God to give me these difficulties. So I decided to believe in God and do all my work in each situation with my best effort.

4. What would you have done if you were in Joseph's shoes?

5. Write down what you've learned from Joseph or what you felt after learning about him.

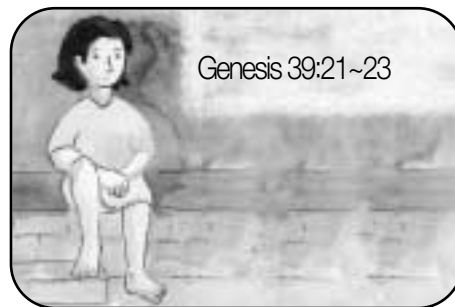
God, Who is With Us

Why was Joseph able to not despair of hope and overcome difficulties?

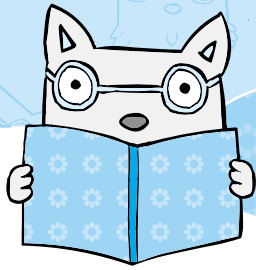
Read the passages in the pictures below and write down the answer.



Genesis 39:2,3



Genesis 39:21-23



Today's Study

God's Will

1. Joseph was able to overcome the difficulties he faced because God was with him. Look at the pictures below and match how Joseph turned out after he went through each difficulty.



He was sold into Egypt.



He was in charge of everything in the prison.



He was a servant in Potiphar's house.



He became the manager in Potiphar's house.



He was cast into prison.



He became the governor of Egypt.

2. What would Joseph have thought when he became the governor of Egypt?

Joseph went through a lot of difficulties, but God was with him and He gave him great glory. Things may be hard now, but in the end, God will give you the very best thing.

I will cry out to God Most High, To God who [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] for [redacted]. (Psalms 57:2)



Today's Lesson

I Have a Dream!

Joseph didn't give up amidst his difficulties, but instead worked hard to do his work. Because God was with this Joseph, God let him be the governor of Egypt.

Read the story below and answer the questions.



Hudson Taylor was saved when he was 17 years old. After salvation, he decided to preach the gospel in China. Hudson Taylor studied medicine and Chinese day and night to preach the gospel there. Finally when he was 22, he went to China and preached the gospel, and many Chinese people were saved.

1. What kind of dream did Hudson Taylor have?

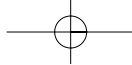
2. What did Hudson Taylor do to make his dream come true?

3. What is your dream?

4. What are the things you need to be devoted to working on for your dream to come true?

At Home	At School	At Church
.....
.....
.....

When you have a dream in God and work hard at your work, God will make your dream come true.



Let's Find out



* A Child With a Dream

A Christian's dream is not simply something that fulfills one's ambitions. You have to know that no matter how hard you study, there is the only one student with the highest grade in a classroom. God doesn't just want us to have dreams to be the best in something. And He doesn't want us all to have dreams to make money and become successful in a company. Christians first have to think, "Is what I want to be, what I am dreaming something God would be happy with?" We have to really think about whether or not we can do the work of God and love our neighbors through the dream we have. Those who have the right types of dreams live righteous lives for the sake of their dreams. Someone with the right kind of dream withstands any present difficulty. That person is truthful and honest in front of God and does the work he/she has to do at the present moment with dedication and devotion. This is to say, he/she is just like Joseph.

parents

Teacher

