



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for November 11, 2007
Released on Wednesday, November 7, 2007**

“Joseph Became a Ruler”

Lesson: Genesis 41:25–40.

Read: Genesis 41:25–45.

Times: 1884 B.C.

Place: Egypt

GOLDEN TEXT: “Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art” Genesis 41:39

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

Genesis 41:25–40

25And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

27And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

28This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

29Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

30And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

31And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

32And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

33Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

34Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

35And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

36And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

37And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

40Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

NOTES ON THE LESSON

Thirteen years had passed from the time Joseph was sold into slavery to the events covered in this lesson. Joseph was in his teens when God revealed to him that he would gain a position of authority over his family. Joseph's announcement to his family about what was to happen to him brought a spiteful and hateful response from his brothers.

It must have been a horrific experience for him to believe that he would never see his father or his home again. He must have wondered such terrible things to happen to him.

Joseph could not immediately know God's plan, but we can see Him working as we read His Word. Read Genesis 39 through 41 to read about Joseph's elevated position in the house of Potiphar, his false arrest, and his imprisonment without hope of release. Through it all, we never read about any bitterness or anger on his part. He seems to have always trusted God.

It was through an amazing turn of events that the pharaoh heard about Joseph and his God-given ability to interpret dreams. God had caused Pharaoh to dream of cows and grain to provide a warning about the coming famine in Egypt. Joseph now stood before Pharaoh to give the interpretation of those dreams. He was about to enter the next stage of God's plan for his life. Joseph would become the second in command of Egypt and exercise great power.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

We can trust God. God can make good things come from our bad experiences.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Joseph trusted God through all his trials.

Joseph gave credit to God for his wisdom.

Joseph's character and integrity prepared him to serve in an important position.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, bring pictures of Joseph as a slave in Potiphar's home and in prison.

For Telling the Lesson, bring a picture of Joseph before the pharaoh, interpreting his dream.

For Helping to Remember, prepare crowns of poster board for your students. Bring colored star stickers. Also, bring a stapler.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

How terrible for Joseph! In our last lesson we saw how Joseph's brothers sold him to be a slave in Egypt. He worked in a rich man's home. The rich man's name was Potiphar. (*Show picture of Joseph serving in Potiphar's home.*) Joseph was a good and faithful worker, and Potiphar trusted him to be in charge of his whole household.

Then Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph. He was put into prison. In prison, he worked hard and did what was right. He became a trusted worker and leader in the prison. (*Show picture of Joseph working in prison.*) God helped him become the leader in the prison. God even helped Joseph explain two men's dreams.

TELLING THE LESSON:

One day while Joseph was in prison, the pharaoh had two strange dreams, one about fat cows and thin cows and another about good grain and unhealthy grain. He found out that Joseph was able to explain the meaning of dreams. He called for Joseph. (*Show picture of Joseph before the pharaoh.*) As Joseph stood before Pharaoh, he explained, "Both of the dreams mean the same thing. God is the only one who knows the meaning, and He has shown it to me."

Joseph explained that there would be seven years of good crops and lots of food in Egypt, and then there would be seven years of no crops to feed the people. He said that God would make all this happen soon.

Joseph told Pharaoh that for the seven good years, he should put a man in charge of storing food for the bad years without food. When the bad years came, there would be food to give to the people.

Pharaoh believed the message that God had sent him in his dreams. He decided that Joseph should be the man in charge of storing the food. He said, "I will make you a ruler over Egypt. You will be the second ruler. Only I will be greater than you."

God freed Joseph from prison and put him in charge of Egypt. God had not forgotten Joseph.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Joseph did his best at everything he did. He was a good man. He worked hard, and he was blessed for it. He served God even when things were going badly for him. He honored God through his good attitude and good service.

We cannot find anywhere in the Bible where it says that Joseph was angry or bitter about what had happened to him. He did not keep bitterness in his heart.

Do not let anger stay in your heart. Forgive people who are unkind to you.

Do not complain about everything because then people might not listen to you when you talk to them about Jesus.

Serve God cheerfully so that He will be pleased with you and so that others will believe in Him because of your good example.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Allow students to decorate their crowns by coloring them and putting stickers on them. Size the crowns for each student's head, and fasten each crown with the stapler. Talk about Joseph's new job in Egypt. Let the students wear their crowns.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art" (Genesis 41:39).

Pharaoh knew that God had given Joseph great wisdom. This was because Joseph had told Pharaoh that God had shown him the meaning of the king's strange dreams. Joseph did not try to take credit for himself. He did not try to fool Pharaoh into thinking that he was the one who came up with the plan to save the Egyptian people. Joseph freely shared that his wisdom came from God. Pharaoh understood that and believed.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:

“Joseph Became a Ruler” (GENESIS 41:25–40)

WORD UNSCRAMBLE

(Draw a line from the first column word to its *scrambled* self in the second column.)

JOSEPH
DREAM
SLEEP
COWS
EARS
EGYPT
SEVEN YEARS
PLENTY
TWICE
PHARAOH
PRISON
POTIPHAR
GUARD
FAMINE
DISCREET
WISE
FOOD
SERVANTS
RULER
CHARIOT

TRIOHAC
PETYG
HOARPAH
PHOSEJ
SEIW
SRESAVTN
DRUAG
PLESE
MEFAIN
EARM D
NESVE YESRA
LURER
SCOW
ECWIT
ROTAIHPP
DOFO
SRAE
TLEYPN
ORSINP
TRESIDEC

“Joseph Became a Ruler” (GENESIS 41:25–40)

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. "And Joseph said unto (**PHARAOH, PETER**), the dream of Pharaoh is (**TWO-FOLD, ONE**): God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do" GENESIS 41:25.
2. "Behold, there come (**SIX, SEVEN**) years of great plenty throughout all the land of (**THE EUPHRATES, EGYPT**)" GENESIS 41:29.

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. After seven years of plenty of food to eat, Joseph told Pharaoh that there would be seven years of no food to eat. GENESIS 41:29–30. **TRUE OR FALSE**
4. Pharaoh's dream was given to him twice because he had a poor memory and needed to be reminded two times of what God said so he would not forget. GENESIS 41:32. **TRUE OR FALSE**

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. "Now therefore let _____ look out a man discreet and _____, and set him over the land of _____."
GENESIS 41:33

EGYPT PHARAOH SCARY WISE PAUL SARAH

6. "And the thing was _____ in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his _____." GENESIS 41:37

SERVANTS GOOD SINFUL HORSES PEOPLE RIGHT

7. "And Pharaoh said unto _____, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is _____ so discreet and wise as thou art." GENESIS 41:39

ONE TWO NONE JOSEPH BENJAMIN FOUR

8. "Thou shalt be over my _____, and according unto thy _____ shall all my people be ruled: only in the _____ will I be greater than thou." GENESIS 41:40

WORD LAND HOUSE FAMILY THRONE DEEDS

9. "And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'See, I have _____ you over all the _____ of _____.'" GENESIS 41:41

POWER SET EGYPT BROTHERS LAND SUN

MEMORY VERSE:

"Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art"
(Genesis 41:39).



Pharaoh gave Joseph a new name: Zaphnath-Paaneah; which means "The God speaks and lives" (Gen. 41:45)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art"
(Genesis 41:39).



From being a slave, Joseph rose to become the ruler of all Egypt!

Lesson Summarized by:

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