

JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

Genesis 40: 1-23

Genesis 40

¹Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. ²Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

After they had been in custody for some time, ⁵each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

⁶When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. ⁷So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

⁸"We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

⁹So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, ¹⁰and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

¹²"This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days.

¹³Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. ¹⁵For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. ¹⁷In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

¹⁸"This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. ¹⁹Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh."

²⁰Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: ²¹He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand, ²²but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

²³The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: BIBLE Pictionary™

Students will play Bible Pictionary™ to review key events in the story.

MATERIALS

1. White 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Bible Pictionary™ Card Master
3. Whiteboard, chalkboard, overhead projector, or large chart paper
4. Scissors



DIRECTIONS

1. Copy the Bible Pictionary™ Cards onto a piece of 67 lb. cardstock
2. Cut the cards into pieces.
3. Hold up each card and discuss what the word has to do with the story.
4. (For younger students, spend time talking about words that are unknown. Discuss how they might draw a picture for each word.)
5. Divide the class into two equal groups.
6. Have a volunteer from one of the teams go up to the board, chart paper, or overhead projector.
7. Show the volunteer one of the Pictionary™ cards. (For younger students you may whisper the words in their ears.)
8. Give each team one (1) minute to draw the picture and have team members guess what the picture is.
9. If the volunteer's own team can guess what the picture is before the one minute time limit has expired, one point is awarded.
10. Teams alternate back and forth drawing and guessing what the picture is. The team with the most points at the end wins.

FOR DISCUSSION

Before playing Pictionary™, discuss each of the words and their importance in the story. Help students understand that even in uncomfortable circumstances, Joseph allowed God to use him. Though few of us will ever be in prison like Joseph, we all end up in situations that are uncomfortable. Joseph didn't complain, but did choose to help by interpreting dreams for others. God would use Joseph later in a similar way with Pharaoh. God gave Joseph wisdom in discerning the meanings of dreams and Joseph used this gift. God gives us all talents and abilities. Give students a chance to share what gifts they have, and how they can be used to further the kingdom of God.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: Approximately 20 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding.” Proverbs 3:13

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Bible Pictionary™ Cards

cupbearer	king	baker
prison	Joseph	night
dream	morning	house
face	sad	God
vine	branches	grapes
cup	hand	basket
bread	bird	birthday
head	tree	feast

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Genesis 40:1-23

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did Joseph do for the cupbearer and the baker?
5		2.) What did Joseph say was going to happen to the cupbearer? (Verse 13)
5		3.) What did Joseph say was going to happen to the baker? (Verse 19)
5		4.) Why do you think the cupbearer forgot about Joseph?

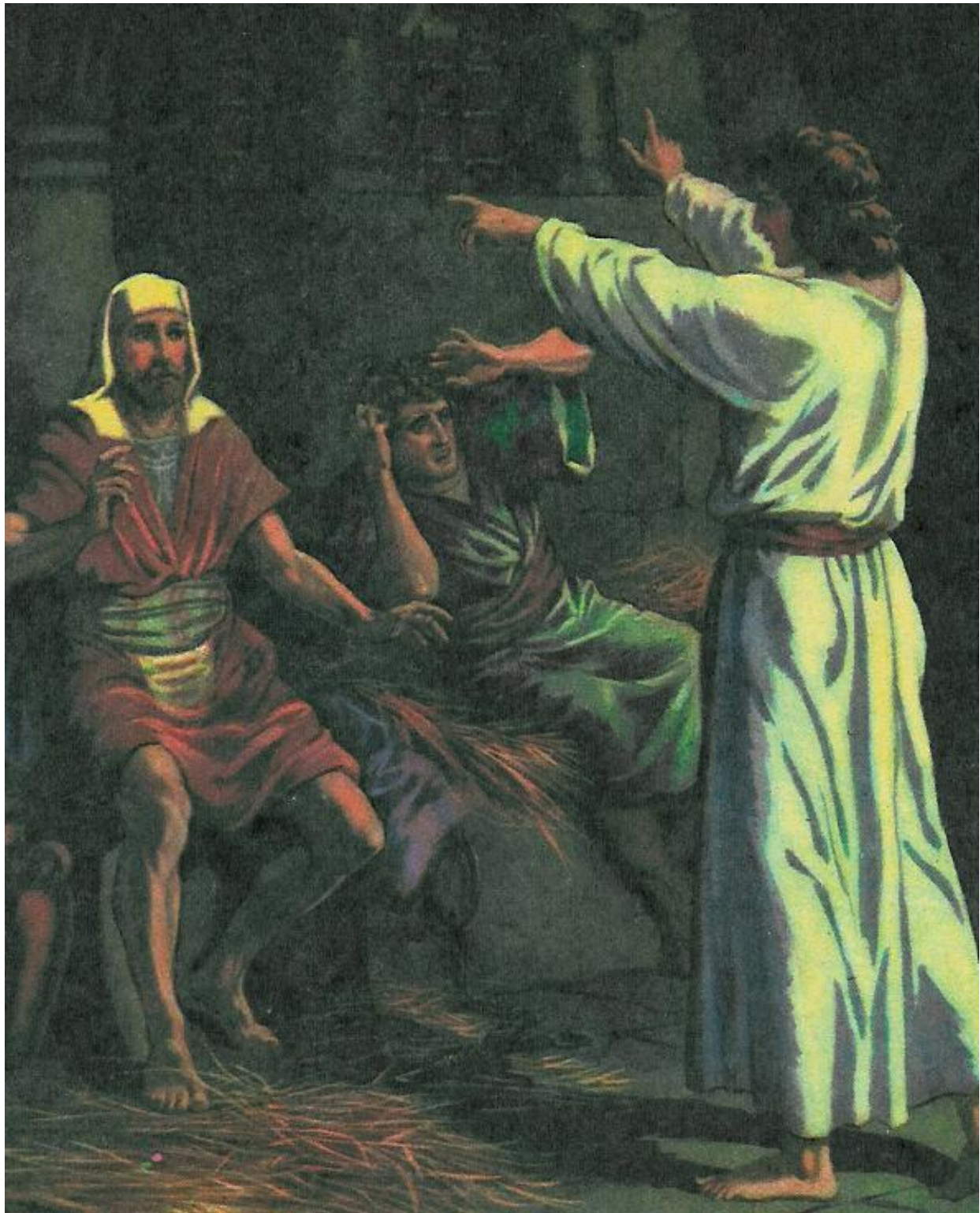
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 3:13</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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Genesis 40:1-23



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JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

Genesis 40:1-23



In prison Joseph interprets the dreams of the baker and cupbearer

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Genesis 40:1-23

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. "And it came to pass after these things that the _____ and the _____ of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt." **GENESIS 40:1**
2. "So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where _____ was confined." **GENESIS 40:3**
3. "Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, dreamed a _____, both of them." **GENESIS 40:5**

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

4. "And they said to him, 'We each have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.' And Joseph said to them..." **GENESIS 40:8**
 - a. Do not interpretations belong to God?
 - b. Tell them to me, please.
 - c. both of these

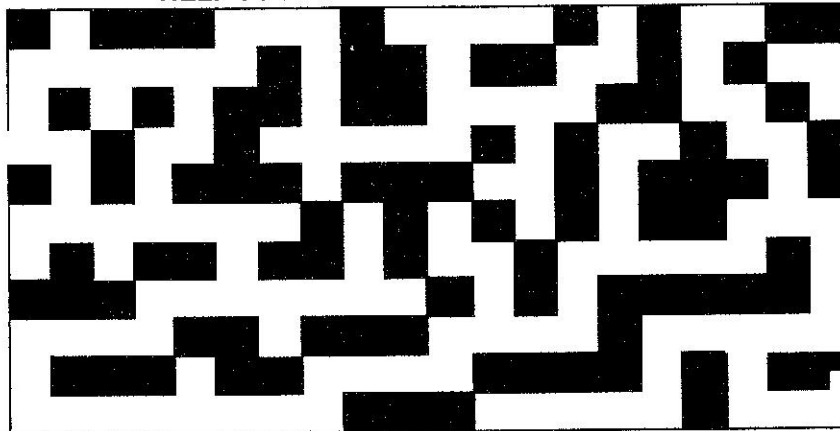
TRUE OR FALSE:

5. The Pharaoh "restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them." **GENESIS 40:21-22**
TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

6. "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but _____ him." **GENESIS 40:23**

HELP JOSEPH GET TO THE THRONE OF PHARAOH



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON GENESIS 40:1-23

JOSEPH INTERPRETS A DREAM



Joseph was put in jail because a woman told a terrible lie about him. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had also put his baker and his cupbearer in jail too. A cupbearer is

someone who takes a drink before the king does to make sure there isn't any poison in the drink.

At night, the baker and the cupbearer both had dreams. They were both sad because they didn't know what the dreams meant. Joseph saw that they were sad and he wanted to help.

The cupbearer told his dream to Joseph. The cupbearer dreamed about vines, three branches, and grapes. Joseph said that his dream meant that in three days, he would have his job back!

Next, the baker told his dream to Joseph. The baker dreamed about three loaves of bread on his head. Birds were eating the bread. Joseph said that his dream meant that in three days, he would die and the birds would eat him up!

Joseph would soon have a special job interpreting Pharaoh's dreams too!

For more details, please read Genesis 40:1-23 in the Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Who were the three men in jail?
2. How did Joseph help the baker and the cupbearer?
3. What happened to the cupbearer?
4. What happened to the baker?

MEMORY VERSE

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding.”

Proverbs 3:13

MATCHING

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. JAIL | <u>5</u> The king of Egypt. |
| 2. JOSPEH | ___ The place where Joseph was locked up. |
| 3. CUPBEARER | ___ A person who bakes for the king. |
| 4. BAKER | ___ A person who tastes the wine before the king drinks it. |
| 5. PHARAOH | ___ The person who told the cupbearer and baker what their dreams meant. |