

City LG - September 21-22, 2019

Bible Story: Under Pressure (Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams) • *Genesis 41*

Bottom Line: When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.

Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NirV)

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: "Zeal" and "Give My All"

Worship Leader prays...

Supplies Needed: 1 Newspaper (per Campus)

"Hi, everyone! I've got a question for you. (*Hold up a newspaper.*) Have you ever seen one of these? Do you know what it is? (*Pause for responses.*) This is a newspaper! It's like a paper website you can hold in your hands!

"Newspapers have pictures and headlines and descriptions of events that are happening all around the world. There weren't any newspapers back in Bible times, but I thought we could pretend and have a little fun as we catch up where we left off with Joseph's story. Would that be all right with you? Great!

"Oh! Here's our first news story!"

CG: Newspaper Slide #1

(*Open and pretend to read the newspaper.*) "Wow. Okay. Here's an article with everything that's happened to Joseph so far. Let's see . . . Joseph's own brothers were so jealous of him that they sold him as a servant. He was taken all the way to Egypt. Joseph did excellent work for his new master, but then he was thrown into prison for something he didn't even do.

(*Look up.*) "Wow! What a story. So many twists and turns!

(*Pretend to read the newspaper again.*) "Let's see . . . where was I? Ah, yes. Joseph had been so trustworthy while in prison that the jailer had put him in charge of all the other prisoners. Then, one day, two men came to the prison with some very strange dreams. With God's help, Joseph told them exactly what their dreams meant. Joseph had asked one of the men—the Pharaoh's drink taster—to remember him and get him out of prison. But the drink taster forgot all about him.

(*Look up.*) "So that's where we find Joseph . . . still trusting God, but still stuck in prison. Would he ever find a way out? I have a feeling that's what's coming up in TODAY's news."

CG: Newspaper Slide #2

(*Open and pretend to read the newspaper.*) "Wow. Here's another one! It looks like Pharaoh had some wild dreams, and no one could tell him what they meant.

(Look up.) “Pharaoh had two dreams. In the first dream, there were seven very healthy cows, and then seven really sick and skinny cows came and ate the healthy cows. That’s . . . interesting!

“In the second dream, there were seven strong and healthy heads of grain, and then they were eaten up by seven thin and dried-up heads of grain.

(Reference the newspaper) “Two very strange dreams. But what did they mean? Pharaoh was pretty frustrated, because nobody could tell him what his dreams were about.

“But THEN—get this—guess who finally remembered Joseph. *(Pause for response.)* Right. Pharaoh’s drink taster! He remembered how Joseph had explained HIS dream back when he was in prison. He told Pharaoh that Joseph was able to explain the meaning of dreams.

“So Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Joseph shaved and changed his clothes. Then he went in front of Pharaoh, the most powerful man in the whole land. Here’s what they said to each other. I just happen to have it here in the Bible.

Open the Bible to Genesis 41:15-16 (NirV) and read.

“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I had a dream. No one can tell me what it means. But I’ve heard that when you hear a dream you can explain it.’ ‘I can’t do it,’ Joseph replied to Pharaoh. ‘But God will give Pharaoh the answer he wants.’”

CG: Newspaper Slide #3

(Open and pretend to read the newspaper.) “Wow. Another new edition hot off the presses.

(Reference the newspaper.) “God had given Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh’s dreams! Both of the dreams meant the same thing. There would be seven years with plenty of food in Egypt. But after that, seven more years would come when there wouldn’t be enough food. People would be hungry all throughout the land.

“Joseph suggested that Pharaoh should choose a wise man and put him in charge of gathering food while there was lots of it. That way the man in charge could save it up for later when there WASN’T any food. Then the people wouldn’t go hungry!

(Glance at the newspaper.) “Whoa! You’re never going to believe Pharaoh’s response! Pharaoh told the people that he was sure the Spirit of God was in Joseph. Pharaoh was so impressed that he . . .

Flip the newspaper over excitedly as if the rest of the story is on another page.

“. . . put Joseph in charge of the entire land of Egypt!

“You know, I’ve got a feeling there might be one more special edition about Joseph. We’ll just have to wait and see until after this week’s video. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:45)

CG: Newspaper Slide #4

STORYTELLER: (*Open and pretend to read the newspaper.*) “Wow! It really happened! Pharaoh put Joseph in charge, and Joseph traveled all over the land to gather extra food. Just like Joseph had said, the land grew amazing, beautiful crops for seven years.

“But the following year, hardly anything grew.

“The people cried out to Pharaoh because they were hungry and they needed food. He said: *Go to Joseph (Genesis 41:55 NIV)*. The people of Egypt all turned to Joseph, and he provided food for them from the grain he had stored up for the past seven years.”

“It wasn’t just the Egyptians who had enough to eat because of Joseph. People from other countries who were hungry heard the news (*hold up the newspaper*) about the grain in Egypt. They came to Egypt to buy grain so they could stay alive.

“It’s pretty amazing to think about Joseph’s whole story. He had been through so much, but he trusted God every step of the way. And here, when the pressure was on, God gave him the courage and wisdom to explain Pharaoh’s dreams. The Egyptians and many others were able to survive during those seven years when they couldn’t grow any food.

“Here’s what we need to remember.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.

“I bet you’ve felt some pressure before. I know I have. Being under pressure means when we have to do something difficult, like we’re up against a time limit, or people are counting on us to do something important. But even when we’re feeling pressure like that, we’re never alone. God is with us, just like He was with Joseph. He’s always there to help us.

“Let’s talk to God now and ask Him to help us when the pressure is on.”

Pray: “Dear God, it’s amazing to hear about how You were with Joseph all throughout his life. You were with him when his brothers threw him into a well. You were with him when he was thrown into prison for something he didn’t do. And You were with him when he got the chance to tell Pharaoh what his dreams meant. Help us to trust You like he did and to remember that You’ll always be with us, too. Help us to trust You when the pressure’s on. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

(*Hold up Bible.*) “There are plenty of times in the Bible when God was there for people who were facing a lot of pressure. God was there for Moses when he led the people of God through the Red Sea. God was there for David when he faced a terrible giant who was threatening God’s people. God was there for the disciples when they went out to tell the whole world about Jesus—even if it meant facing a lot of danger. God showed us that he’s ALWAYS there for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Remember this: **[Bottom Line] When the pressure is on, you can trust God is with you.**

"That reminds me of our memory verse, Proverbs 3:5. Do you remember it? Let's say it together.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

KIDS: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5 NIV).*

"We can trust God with everything we've got. We can trust Him when the pressure's on. Before we head to Small Group, let's worship God with our offering!"

Offering Time:

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them."

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! We have some friends of Parkview Kids that are there right now as we speak!"

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! *(show offering container).*"

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)

Dismiss kids to their small groups.