

God Sees Joseph Follow Him in Jail

Genesis 39:21- 41:44

The Bible tells us that Potiphar put Joseph in jail even though he did nothing wrong. God saw Joseph every day in the jail and He helped Joseph by giving him everything he needed. God helped Joseph do good work in jail and He caused the jailer to like Joseph. Soon Joseph was a very important man in the jail. The jailer put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners because of his good work. Joseph watched over everyone in the jail!

God gave Joseph the wisdom to do his job well and to help the people in the jail. Wisdom is using what you have learned to do things well and make good choices. One day two of the king's servants were put in jail. One was the king's waiter and the other was the king's cook. They had made the king angry and he sent them to jail. The jailer put Joseph in charge of them and Joseph took care of them for quite a while.

One night the king's waiter and the king's cook both had dreams. They did not understand what their dreams meant, and they were very worried about them. When Joseph saw them the next morning, he asked, "Why are your faces so sad?" They said, "We have each had dreams and we do not understand them." Joseph said, "God knows what your dreams mean. Tell me what you dreamed, and God will help me explain them to you."

The waiter explained his dream to Joseph and Joseph told him that in 3 days, the king would forgive him, and he would go back to work for the king. Joseph said, "When you return to the king, please be kind and tell him about me. I was brought here as a slave and I did not do anything wrong to cause my master to put me in jail."

Then, the cook explained his dream to Joseph hoping it would be a good dream for him too. Joseph was sad to tell the cook the bad news about his dream. In three days, the king was going to have the cook killed. When three days passed, the waiter was sent back to work for the king and the cook was killed just as Joseph said. But the waiter did not remember Joseph. He forgot to tell the king about him. Joseph stayed in the jail for two years.

The waiter may have forgotten about Joseph, but God did not. God was with Joseph in the jail, he protected him, and he gave him wisdom to do his job well. And that made Joseph glad. Joseph did not give up but kept depending on God for what he needed every day.

One night while the king was sleeping, he had a dream that he did not understand. He was very upset about the dream. He asked all of his wise men and helpers to tell him what the dream meant, and no one could! Then the king's waiter remembered that while he was in jail, Joseph helped him understand his dream. He remembered that Joseph also explained the cook's dream and Joseph was right about both dreams. He told the king about Joseph. The king sent for Joseph and said, "I had a dream and I do not know what it means. Can you tell me?" Joseph told the king that God would help him explain the dream.

When Joseph heard the king's dream, God helped Joseph to know exactly what the dream meant. Joseph told the king that for 7 years the people would be able to grow lots of food – more than they would be able to use. Then for 7 years, no food would grow, and the people would be hungry. God was with Joseph and He gave him a good idea to provide for the people.

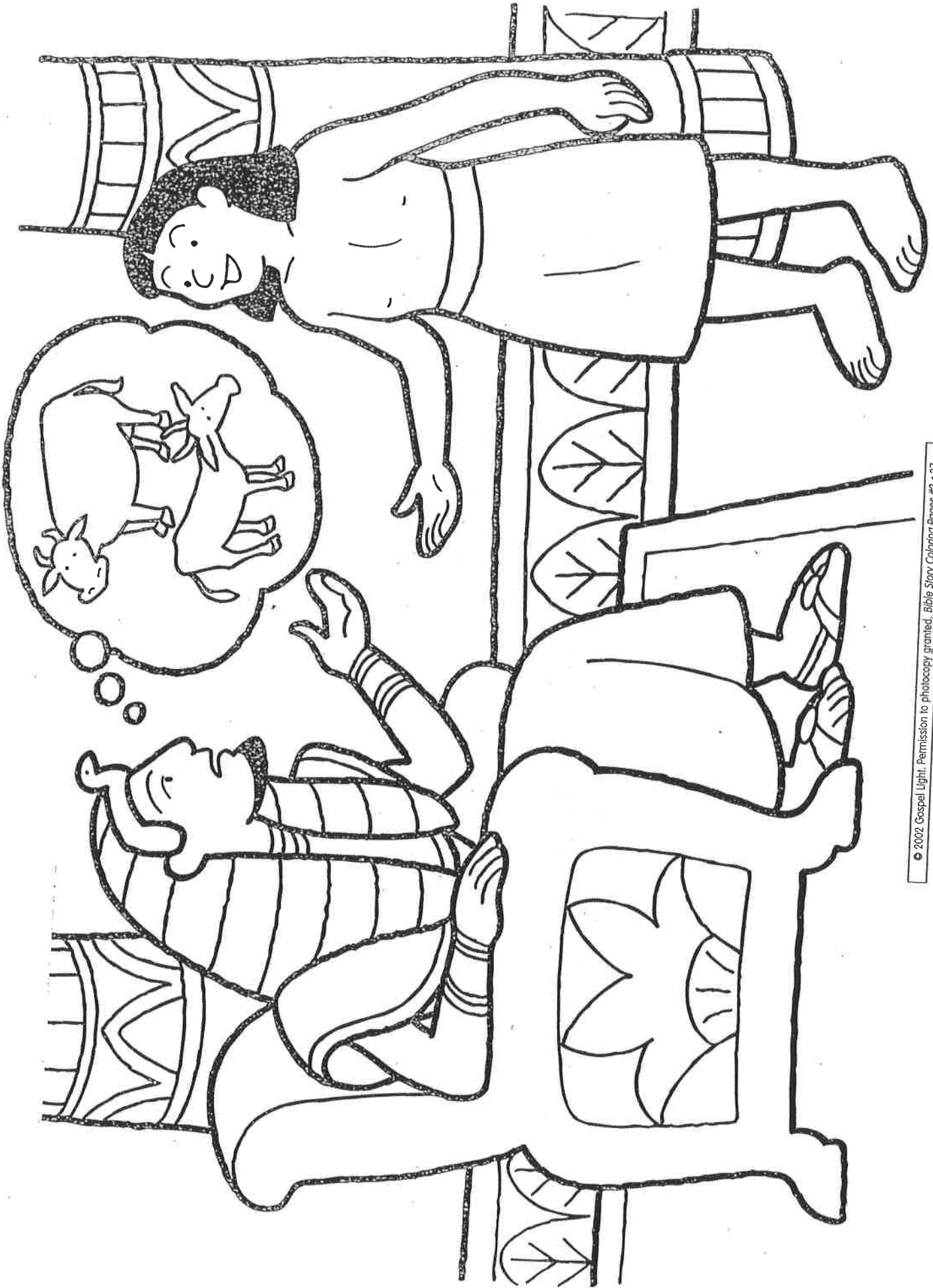
Joseph said that the king should find a smart man to be in charge of the food. Joseph told the king that he should build big barns and save lots of food for the 7 good years and then the people would have food for the next 7 years when no crops would grow. The king was pleased with Joseph's idea. He said, "You are very wise. I will put you in charge and you will take care of the people. Since God has told you what my dream means and how to provide for the people, there is no one as wise as you."

The king gave Joseph his special ring that he used to stamp important papers and beautiful clothes to wear. He also gave Joseph a chariot so he could ride around and take care of things for the king. Everyone who saw the ring, the clothes and the chariot knew that Joseph was working for the king. They knew he was the one God told the way to provide for the people.

God saw that Joseph pleased the king with the idea He gave to Joseph! God saw Joseph as he became the king's main helper! God helped Joseph take care of the people by planning for the years when the rain would stop. God see us and will be there to help us when things are hard too!

August Bible Verse:

Be strong and courageous!
Do not tremble or be dismayed
for the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



Learning Activity (Craft)

Egyptian Collars

Materials: master of Egyptian collar
 Markers
 self-adhesive foam shapes or glue on foam shapes, jewels and/or sequins
 yarn

Cut out one collar per child and punch holes in each side to attach yarn to both sides of the collar so the collar can be tied on. Let the children make Egyptian collars by decorating them. They can color designs or patterns with markers, use self-adhesive foam shapes or glue on foam shapes, jewels and sequins, depending on the age of the children. Help tie yarn to both sides to tie the collar around the children's necks very loosely. Remind the children that Joseph was given beautiful clothes by the king because he was going to save the people. God was with Joseph in prison, helped him to get out and then gave him a plan to save the people when the years of no rain came.

