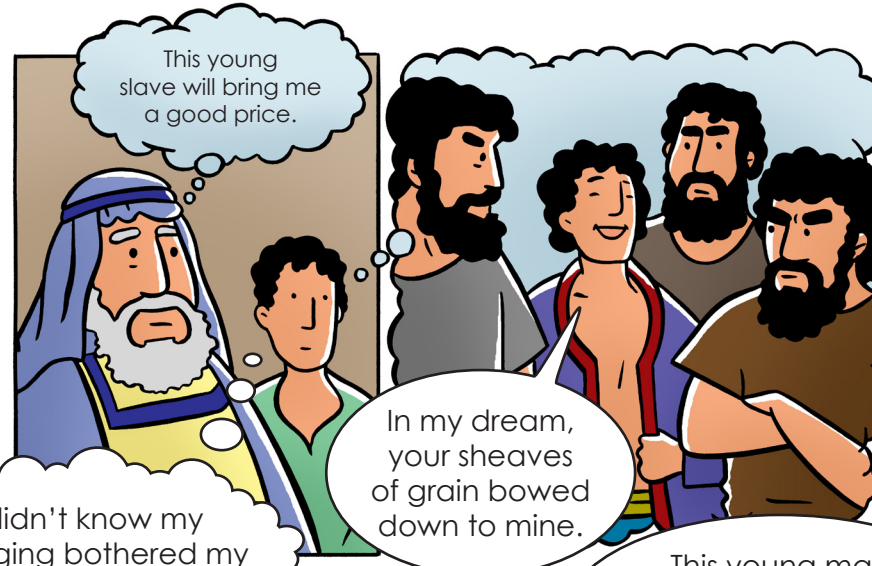


How God Blessed Joseph

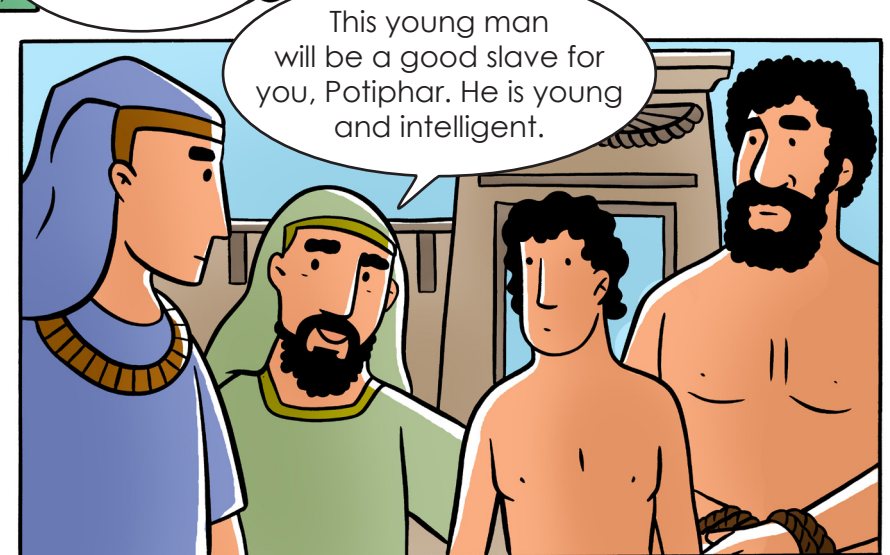
YOU CAN FIND THE STORY OF JOSEPH IN GENESIS 37, 39-41.

AS A CHILD, JOSEPH'S FATHER, JACOB, FAVORED HIM ABOVE HIS OTHER SONS, AND GAVE JOSEPH A SPECIAL COAT.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS FELT ENVIOUS OF THEIR FATHER'S FAVORITISM TO JOSEPH. JOSEPH DIDN'T MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM, AND OFTEN BRAGGED TO THEM ABOUT DREAMS HE HAD THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD RULE OVER HIS BROTHERS.



EVENTUALLY THEIR JEALOUSY OF JOSEPH LED TO THEM DOING THE UNTHINKABLE. WHEN JOSEPH WAS A TEENAGER, HIS BROTHERS SOLD HIM TO SLAVE TRADERS.





AS TIME PASSED, POTIPHAR BECAME IMPRESSED WITH JOSEPH'S DILIGENCE AND FAITHFULNESS WITH HIS WORK AND PROMOTED HIM TO THE POSITION OF HEAD STEWARD¹ IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE, JOSEPH WAS ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN LIFESTYLE, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE.

AFTER MANY YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO POTIPHAR, JOSEPH SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF THROWN INTO PRISON, HAVING BEEN UNJUSTLY ACCUSED BY POTIPHAR'S WIFE OF BEHAVING BADLY TOWARDS HER.

¹ HEAD STEWARD: MANAGER OF THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF

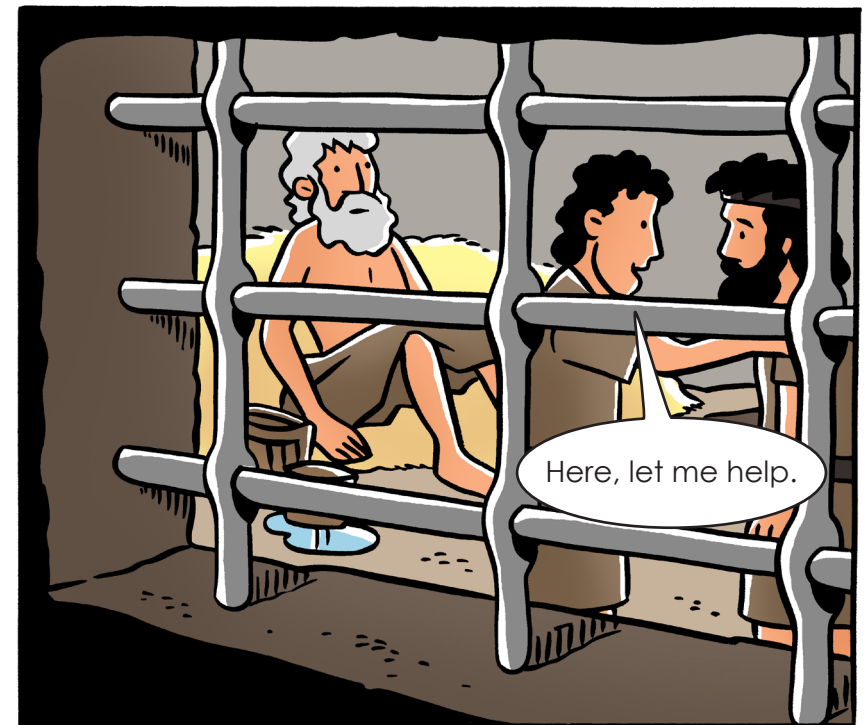




IN PRISON GOD DIDN'T ABANDON JOSEPH, BUT USED THIS TIME TO CONTINUE PREPARING HIM FOR GOD'S EVENTUAL PLAN FOR HIS LIFE.

WHILE JOSEPH WAS IN PRISON, THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE PRISON SAW THAT JOSEPH WAS A GOOD MAN WHO COULD BE TRUSTED.

JOSEPH WAS DOING HIS BEST TO LIVE UP TO THE GODLY PRINCIPLES HIS PARENTS HAD TAUGHT HIM, WHICH RESULTED IN THE BLESSING OF GOD ON HIS LIFE, AND EVENTUALLY, JOSEPH WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF THE OTHER PRISONERS.



THE POSITION THAT JOSEPH HELD IN THE PRISON LED TO THE NEXT STEP OF GOD'S PLAN FOR JOSEPH—TO WORK FOR PHARAOH.

IN PRISON, JOSEPH INTERPRETED THE DREAMS OF TWO MEN WHO HAD, AT ONE TIME, WORKED IN THE PALACE. THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN PHARAOH'S BUTLER WAS LATER RELEASED, AND HE TOLD PHARAOH THAT JOSEPH COULD INTERPRET DREAMS. JOSEPH KNEW THAT HE COULDN'T INTERPRET DREAMS, BUT HE TRUSTED IN GOD TO HELP HIM DO SO WHEN NEEDED.



BY GIVING GOD'S INTERPRETATION OF PHARAOH'S DREAM, JOSEPH HELPED PHARAOH UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE GREAT FAMINE THAT WOULD COME. THIS LED TO PHARAOH APPOINTING JOSEPH AS THE SECOND IN CHARGE OF ALL EGYPT.



BY BEING IN THIS POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN EGYPT, JOSEPH WAS ABLE TO HELP HIS FATHER, BROTHERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES SURVIVE THE FAMINE.

GOD CAN TAKE EVEN DIFFICULT OR SEEMINGLY BAD CIRCUMSTANCES AND TURN THEM TOWARDS GOOD. HE WANTS TO DO THAT FOR YOU TOO!

Here's a promise for you to remember:

"WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE" (ROMANS 8:28 ESV).

LIKE JOSEPH, DO YOUR BEST TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE AND TRUST GOD TO TURN EVERYTHING INTO GOOD. HE CAN TURN EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT SITUATIONS INTO BLESSINGS FOR YOU AND FOR OTHERS. LIKE HE DID FOR JOSEPH!

S&S link: Character Building: Social Skills: Obedience-1b

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