

General Church Education



# Pharaoh's Dreams

Genesis 41:1-43

## Lesson 9

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our  
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

# Pharaoh's Dreams

## Genesis 41:1-43

### OVERVIEW OF LESSON

Joseph was a gentle and good person. The Lord gave Joseph the ability to tell the meaning of dreams. When he explained Pharaoh's dreams, he was let out of prison and made ruler of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. He saved the land from famine, saved his family and ended up ruling over them too.

### CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Joseph represents our love of spiritual truth or heavenly things, not just as a matter of theory, but for the sake of applying it to life. Whenever we seek to follow the Lord, instead of our own selfish and worldly ideas, then "Joseph" is ruling in our lives.
- ❖ Just as the Lord watched over Joseph in Egypt after his brothers had abandoned him, so He preserves spiritual loves in us even when worldly thoughts shut them out.
- ❖ The "seven years of plenty" for us are the times when life is going well and we have opportunities to think about the Lord and learn from His Word. It is important to store up as much truth as possible in our minds so we can draw upon it when difficult times come.
- ❖ Knowledge from the Word should be acquired in childhood especially, when the mind is in an innocent and receptive state and the love of learning is strong.
- ❖ The "years of famine" are when life seems hard and we are very aware of what little understanding and strength we have. A "famine" represents a prolonged lack of spiritual truth. Later, when we are busy earning a living and raising a family, the spiritual principles we learned while growing up will help us get through tough times.

## PHARAOH'S DREAMS

### IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Joseph is made a leader.

He used the gifts the Lord gave him in helpful ways.

### LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ **Jacob had twelve sons. One was his favorite. What was his name?**(Joseph.)

The Lord gave Joseph two wonderful dreams that showed he would one day rule over his family. The Lord also gave Joseph the gift to interpret dreams, that is, to tell what dreams mean.

- ♦ **What was the first dream Joseph had?** (The brother's eleven sheaves in the field bowed down to his sheaf.)
- ♦ **What was the second dream?** (Sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.)
- ♦ **How did the brothers feel about him when Joseph told them the dreams?** (They were jealous and hated him.)



### OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

The older brothers wanted to get rid of Joseph. At first they planned to kill him but then decided to sell him to a group of Ishmaelites who were traveling through Canaan on the way to Egypt. In Egypt Joseph was sold again. This time he went to work in the home of a captain in the Pharaoh's guard or army. The Egyptians called their king Pharaoh.

When the captain's wife told lies about Joseph, he was put in prison. Joseph was honest, fair, and always remembered the Lord. So the Lord was with him and took care of him through all of his troubles.

In prison Joseph met two servants of Pharaoh who had strange dreams. Joseph was able to tell both of them the meaning or interpretation of their dreams. Then one day Pharaoh himself had some strange dreams. Listen to Pharaoh's dreams.



Read **Genesis 41:1-7**.



What happened in the first dream? (Seven fat cows came out of a river followed by seven skinny cows who ate the fat ones.)



What happened in the second dream? (Seven plump and good heads of grain grew on a stalk, followed by seven thin ones that ate up the plump ones.)

Pharaoh was very troubled by these dreams and could find no one to tell him what they meant. Then one of Pharaoh's servants, who knew of Joseph's ability to tell the meaning of dreams, told Pharaoh about Joseph. So Joseph was let out of prison and brought before Pharaoh.



Read **Genesis 41:14-16**.

Joseph told Pharaoh that the meaning of the dreams would come from the Lord. Joseph used his gift to tell Pharaoh that soon there would be seven good years with plenty of food. Then seven bad years would come when there would be so little food that it would cause a long famine. This was very unusual. Egypt almost always had plenty of food.

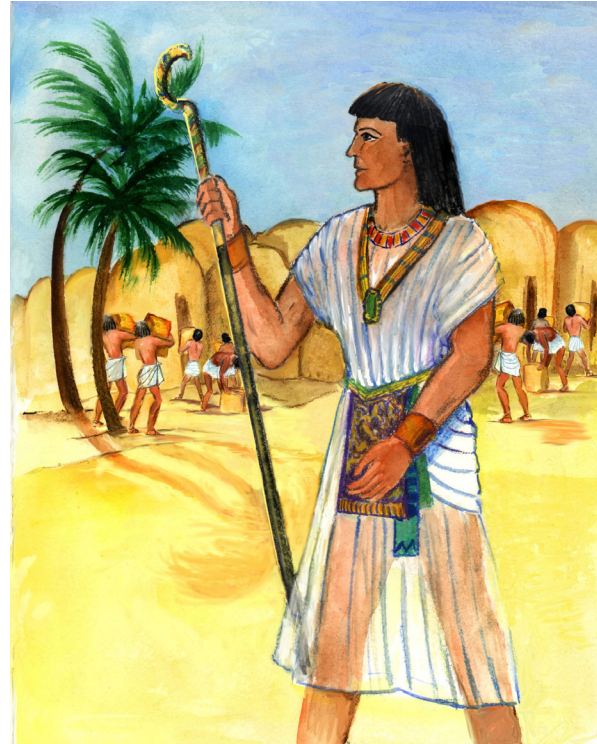
Then Joseph gave Pharaoh some good advice. He advised him to choose a wise person who would collect and store grain during the good years. When the poor years followed, food would be stored and ready.

Do you think Pharaoh followed Joseph's advice? Pharaoh did follow Joseph's advice! In fact, he made Joseph ruler just below Pharaoh himself because everyone agreed that they could not find a wiser man than Joseph. Joseph took no credit for his wisdom. He believed in the Lord and trusted His guidance. So when Joseph ruled Egypt, the Lord was really ruling.

During the seven years of plenty, Joseph stored away lots of food. Then when the seven years of famine came, Egypt had food. People in other countries were hungry because there was very little food. Joseph's family in Canaan was without food and had to travel to Egypt to get some. It was in Egypt that they were brought together again.



Joseph had long ago forgiven his brothers. He recognized his brothers when they came to buy grain in Egypt and he was so happy to see them once again. He told his father, his brothers and all their families to come to Egypt during the famine so they would have plenty to eat. They were very happy to be together after all that time. Pharaoh gave them the best part of the land to live in and Joseph did in fact rule over them.



Did Joseph's dreams come true?  
(Yes.)

Did you think he would ever be such an important leader when his brothers sold him into slavery? Or when he was put in prison?

Sometimes disappointing things happen to us. The Lord can be with us and bring good things to us if we remember to try to do what is right. We can always pray to the Lord and ask for His help when we are sad about something.

## WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY

- ♦ **When Joseph was sold by his older brothers, what country was he taken to?** (Egypt.)
- ♦ **What happened in the first strange dream of Pharaoh?** (Seven fat cows came out of a river followed by seven skinny cows who ate the fat ones.)
- ♦ **What happened in the second strange dream of Pharaoh?** (Seven good heads of grain grew on a stalk, followed by seven thin ones that ate up the good ones.)
- ♦ **Who was the only one who could tell Pharaoh the meaning of these dreams?** (Joseph.)
- ♦ **What happened to Joseph because he gave such good advice to Pharaoh?** (He was made a ruler in Egypt and helped save the grain during the good years.)
- ♦ **Why do you think the Lord was able to help Joseph so much?** (Because Joseph always tried to do what was right.)
- ♦ **Do you think Joseph's life was mostly happy or mostly sad? Why?**

# PHARAOH'S DREAMS

## ACTIVITIES



**Recitation:** Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Therefore, whatever you want men to do for you, do also to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12



**Project choices:**

*Pharaoh's Dreams* project  
Color a picture of Joseph with Pharaoh.



**Songs:**

*Joseph's Coat*—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-josephs-coat/>

*Love Divine, All Love Excelling*—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-love-divine-all-loves-excelling/>



**Additional Activities:**

- ❖ To learn more about Egypt and the time that Joseph lived, a visit a museum online or in person. Look for Egyptian necklaces and signet rings, also their fine linen clothing. These are the three gifts Pharaoh gave Joseph as a sign of high rank.
- ❖ Learn an action rhyme about the butler and the baker's dreams. Online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-sheaves-bow-down-action-rhyme/>
- ❖ Ask children to tell you about their dreams.

## Pharaoh's Dreams

Help children remember what happened in Pharaoh's dreams and understand the contrast between plenty and famine.

### Supplies:

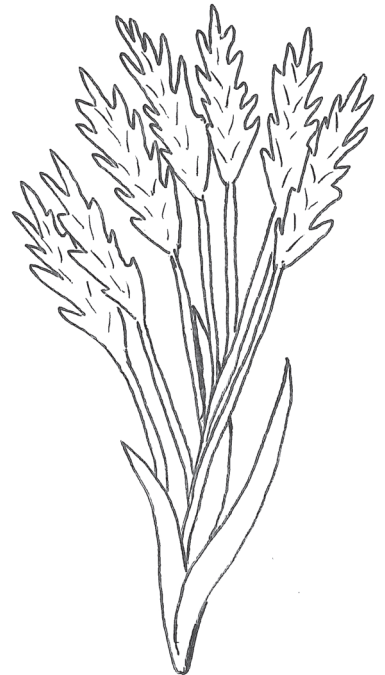
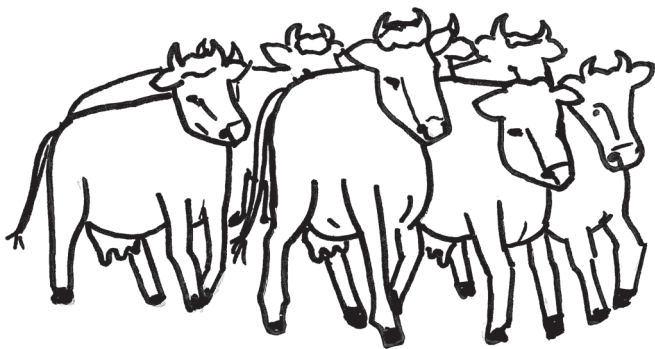
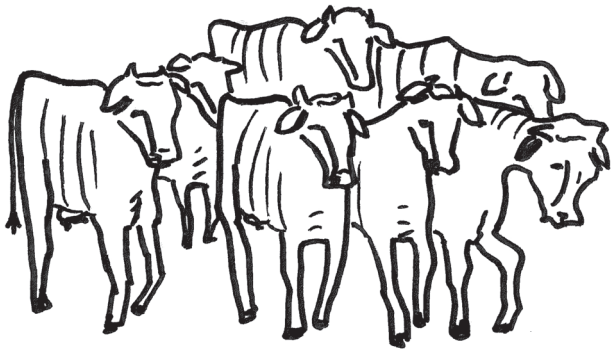
2 printed pages  
crayons or markers  
scissors  
tape

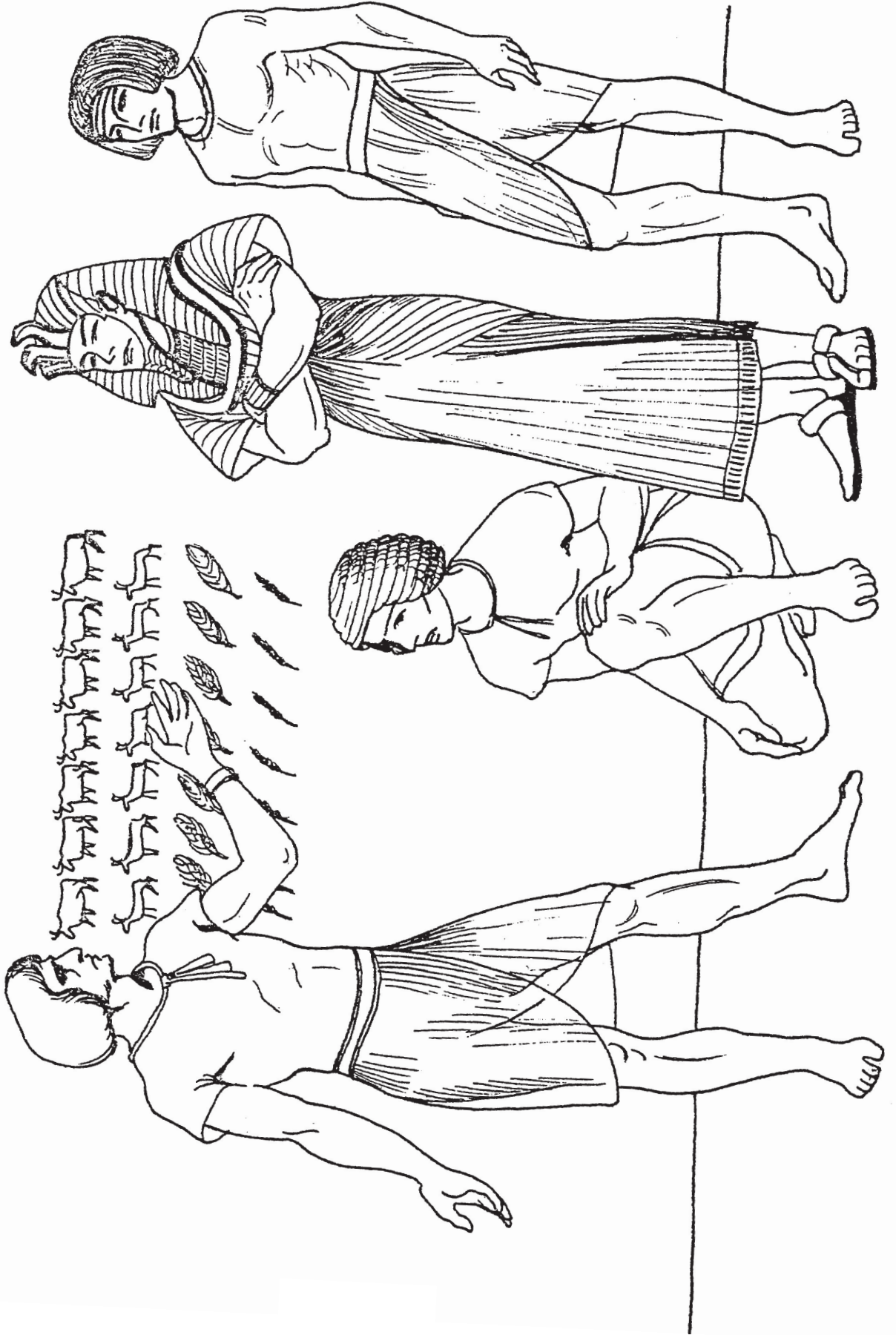
### Project instructions:

1. Draw a picture of Pharaoh sleeping on the page that says "Pharaoh's Dreams". Look at pictures for ideas about how Pharaoh might be dressed.
2. Color the pictures of the healthy cows and the sickly cows and the healthy grain and the withered grain.
3. Cut along the solid lines on the page with the cows and the grain. Then fold the two strips of paper along the dotted lines.
4. Tape the narrow bottom fold to the top of the back of the page with Pharaoh on it. (See illustration.)
5. Fold the two strips along the dotted lines with the printing on the outside of the fold.
6. Using four small pieces of tape, attach the bottom of each strip to the back of the top of the picture of Pharaoh as shown.
7. Now you are ready to retell the story of Pharaoh's Dreams. Start by unfolding the first strip, bit by bit, showing the healthy cows and then the sick cows. Then do the same with the strip showing the grain.

# Pharaoh's Dreams







## Recitation Award: Pharaoh's Dreams

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

