



Joseph Rules Egypt

Level C

Genesis 41:1-7, 14-15, 25-30, 33-35, 38-42, 46-49, 56-57

Ages 11-14

Life Focus: Treasure your connection with heaven.

Story Summary: Pharaoh had two dreams. First, he saw seven healthy fat cows grazing. Then seven skinny cows came and ate up the fat cows. Next he saw seven plump heads of grain on a stalk. Seven blighted thin heads sprang up and devoured the seven full heads. Nobody could tell Pharaoh what the dreams meant. Then the butler remembered Joseph, and he was brought out of prison to interpret the dreams. The dreams meant that there would be seven years of good harvest followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint a ruler to store food for the famine, and Pharaoh chose Joseph for this role. When the famine began, people came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph.

Lesson 3

Materials Needed

Supplied with Lesson

Additional Materials

	<i>Supplied with Lesson</i>		<i>Additional Materials</i>
1. Getting Started (2-3 min)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Welcome Warm-up Activity directions p. 30	
2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min)	Read the Word Talk About It story discussion	Talk About It discussion guide p. 30	Bible or copy of Genesis 41
3. Engage with the Word choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min)	Online Video watch a video on natural and spiritual hunger and discuss	Natural and Spiritual Hunger online at www.bitly.com/SpiritualHunger discussion questions p. 31	computer or other viewing device - watch online or download; see p. 4 for downloading directions
	Act It Out review all of the dreams in the Joseph story and their meanings	Dream Charades directions pp. 31-32; <i>Dream Summaries</i> p. 34 <i>Dream Questions</i> p. 35	pens or pencils, bowl for folded charades
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min)	Take the Message Home a door hanger with a summary of the lesson and activities	Joseph Rules Egypt Door Hanger p. 36	color version available at www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Would You Rather?

Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss:

1. Would you rather go for a walk or play a video game?
2. Would you rather be without food or without water?
3. Would you rather not be able to see or not be able to hear?

2. Focus on the Word

Read Genesis 41:1-7, 14-15, 25-30, 33-35, 38-42, 46-49, 56-57

Have you ever had a dream that changed your life?

**Talk
About It**

Pharaoh's dreams predicted things that would happen in the future. They were "prophetic". Many people in the Word received prophetic dreams. The Heavenly Doctrine says that these dreams were different from our dreams; they were from the Lord Himself and foretold something that would happen in the future. The Lord does not try to teach us about the future through dreams. Instead, He wants us to learn from the Word and try to live according to it each day (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1976).

Why couldn't Pharaoh's wise men explain his dreams? The Lord alone knows the future so only He could tell the dreams' meaning (see *Divine Providence* 179).

What did Pharaoh's dream predict? Seven years of plentiful harvest followed by seven years of famine.

What is the hungriest you have ever been in your life? What was it like?

If physical hunger is going without food, what might *spiritual* hunger be? (Not having true ideas from the Word) **What might this look like in your life or someone else's?**

What advice did Joseph give Pharaoh? Prepare for famine by storing one fifth of the food during the years of plentiful harvest.

Why did Pharaoh choose Joseph to oversee the plan? The Spirit of God was with Joseph.

What power did Pharaoh give Joseph? He was made second in command to Pharaoh himself and ruled Pharaoh's household. He was so powerful that everyone bowed down to him.

The deeper meaning of this story is about how a person forms a relationship with heaven and the Lord. When a person reads the Word and acts on the true ideas there, he or she forms a spiritual relationship with angels in heaven. These relationships are real—as real as the connections we make with people in the natural world—and they last forever. In the story these connections are pictured by the grain that is stored up during the times of plenty.

When a person goes through a difficult time (like Pharaoh, who could not understand his dream), his or her spiritual values that have been connected to heaven (like Joseph) can help him or her see a way forward. The more connections to heaven that a person has, the more clearly he or she can see wise ways to act.

3. Engage with the Word

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Natural and Spiritual Hunger

Spark students' curiosity by showing this video about natural and spiritual hunger. Natural hunger pictures what happens when our minds and spirits lack the spiritual food needed for a healthy spiritual life. Learn what can cause spiritual famine and how an apparent spiritual desert can be transformed into a garden in bloom when we willingly receive the gentle rain of the Lord's truth in our minds. Continue the conversation with the discussion questions below.

1. Picture a hard time you have faced. What helped you through it?
2. In hard times, a person may receive comfort from the Lord through His Word or through other people. In what ways have you helped others or been helped by others when going through a hard time?
3. Why might sharing a true idea be more important than giving a hungry person food?
4. Everyone experiences difficult times—times of “famine”. How can a person prepare for this? (Think of the ways Joseph helped Pharaoh prepare for famine in Egypt.)
5. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of storing food. Which of our personal qualities should we put in charge of preparing for spiritual famine?
6. How differently would a prepared person act from one who was unprepared in a time of famine?
7. Explain what Jesus meant when He said “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). In what ways does this statement charge you to “feed the hungry”—either by giving someone food, or by sharing ideas from the Lord's Word?
8. What happens to a person who consistently turns away from the Lord, shutting the door on Him?
9. How does the Lord reach out to help a person who is spiritually needy?

Video Directions

View video at
www.bitly.com/SpiritualHunger

OR

Download video to your computer or other device. See downloading directions on p. 4.



Large Group?

Divide students into more than two teams!

Choice

Dream Charades

This activity reviews the six dreams in the Joseph series, dreamed by Joseph, the butler, the baker, and Pharaoh.

Students will work in teams. Teams will take turns choosing a *Dream Summaries* card out of a bowl and acting it out as a charade (i.e. silently). The team watching will answer questions on a *Questions* card. Once all the dreams have been acted out, the group will review the dreams and answers.

1. We are going to review the dreams in the Joseph story by acting them out as charades. While one team acts out a dream, the other team will complete a *Questions* sheet. You will need to know who is dreaming, who the dream is told to, what the dream means, and how people feel about the dream.
2. Divide students into teams. Choose a team to start.
3. Invite the first team to pick a *Dream Summaries* card out of a bowl. Give the team a minute to plan a charade.

Materials

2 copies of *Dream Summaries* p. 34—1 to use as an answer sheet, enough copies of the *Dream Questions* p. 35 for each group to have at least 3 copies, pens or pencils, bowl for folded *Dream Summaries* cards

Preparation

cut apart *Dream Summaries* and *Questions* pages

fold *Dream Summaries* so the text is not visible, and put them in a bowl

Dream Charades *continued*

4. While the team is working out their approach, distribute pens or pencils and copies of the *Questions* cards for the other team members to guess the dream answers as a group.
5. The first group acts out a charade. Once the charade is finished and the other team has answered as many questions as they can, switch roles so that the team that was watching now acts.
6. Continue until all the dreams have been acted out.
7. Gather students as a group. Use a complete copy of the *Dream Summaries* as an answer sheet.
8. *Optional*: if time allows, ask students to extend their answers to how each dream relates to their lives.

New Church Concept: The Baker's Dream

The word used to describe the baskets in the baker's dream in the original text is translated variously in different editions of the Bible. The Heavenly Doctrine teaches that the baskets had holes in them. This means we do not have a home for the Lord in our lives if we do not love the good and truth that come from Him. This prevents us from receiving Him (*Arcana Coelestia* 5145).

4. Wrap It Up

Closing

Gather the students together. Why is it important to create relationships with angels in heaven? In what way might these relationships change your actions?

Hand each student a copy of the *Joseph Rules Egypt Door Hanger* p. 36. Read the "Your famine times" section at the top of the hanger with the students. Look at "Store up your good experiences." Encourage the students to do one or more of the activities this week.

Note: a color version of the door hanger can be printed from www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs.



Dream Summaries

Dream Charades
Joseph's First Dream
Genesis 37

Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to his brothers.

He said, "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright, and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

His brothers hated him for his dreams and for his words.

Dream Charades
Joseph's Second Dream
Genesis 37

Joseph dreamed another dream.

"This time the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

He told it to his father and his brothers. His father rebuked him and said, "Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Joseph's brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Dream Charades
The Butler's Dream
Genesis 40

The chief butler told his dream to Joseph.

"Behold in my dream a vine was before me, and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

And Joseph said, "The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place."

Dream Charades
The Baker's Dream
Genesis 40

The chief baker told his dream to Joseph.

"I had baskets with holes on my head. In the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

And Joseph said, "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh."

Dream Charades
Pharaoh's First Dream
Genesis 41

Out of the river came seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows.

In the morning Pharaoh called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them.

Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dream, and Joseph told him the meaning.

Dream Charades
Pharaoh's Second Dream
Genesis 41

Suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads.

In the morning Pharaoh called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them.

Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dream, and Joseph told him the meaning.

Dream Questions

Dream Charades

1. Who was dreaming?
2. How did people feel about the dream?
3. Who did the dreamer tell his dream to?
4. What did the dream mean?

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LOADS!

Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea...

Joseph Rules Egypt

Cut out the shaded doorhanger. Fold it in half and hang it over a door.

Your famine times

We all have good times and hard or difficult times. During good times, we can store up the good states of love and peace that we feel. The teachings for the New Church call these stored up states "remains".

"Remains are all the states of love and charity, innocence and peace, with which a person is gifted.... Without these states a person is not a person." *Arcana Coelestia* 1738

Remembering good times can help us to get through hard times. And even on our darkest days there are usually still a few moments that can lift us up.

Store up your good experiences

Something I did well today was...

Think of one success you had today. It could be as simple as spontaneously holding the door for someone else and smiling.

I feel grateful for the way...

What good thing happened today? Was someone kind to you? Did you see or hear something beautiful?

I'm really looking forward to...

Anticipating something good can be almost enjoyable as experiencing it. What is coming up that brings you excitement and happiness?

Blessed be the Lord, Who daily LOADS us with benefits.

Psalm 68:19