LESSON 8

JOSEPH IN PRISON



Aim: **To teach the children that God continued to be with Joseph in his difficulties. Joseph began to use the gifts God had given him to help others, not only himself.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 39:19 – 40:23**

Memory Verse: **Genesis 39:21**
[T]he Lord was with [Joseph]; he showed him kindness …

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Ask the children who likes to sing. Probably most of them do. **Ask the class who gives us good voices to sing with. By your questions and answers, show that God gives us gifts like singing to enjoy.** We enjoy them more if we share our gifts with others.

Main Points of Today's Teaching

1. Joseph had a gift – he could interpret dreams. But his gift of dreaming sometimes made people angry with him. **Show picture 5. Briefly review the story as you look at the picture.** Now Joseph was imprisoned unjustly but he was not angry with God. **Describe Joseph's position in the prison (39:21-23).**
2. The king of Egypt, Pharaoh, had put his chief cupbearer and his chief baker in prison along with Joseph. They spent a long time there. One night both these servants had dreams. They thought there was no-one to tell them what their dreams meant. Joseph told them that God could make it clear to them. These Egyptians did not know the one true God. Joseph offered to help them understand God's message (40:1-8).
3. **Show picture 8. Tell the story of the chief cupbearer's dream (40:9-13).**
   Note:
   a) His dream is pictured above the servant's head.
   b) A vine is a small bush that bears grapes. The small fruits are squeezed to get the juice for making wine.

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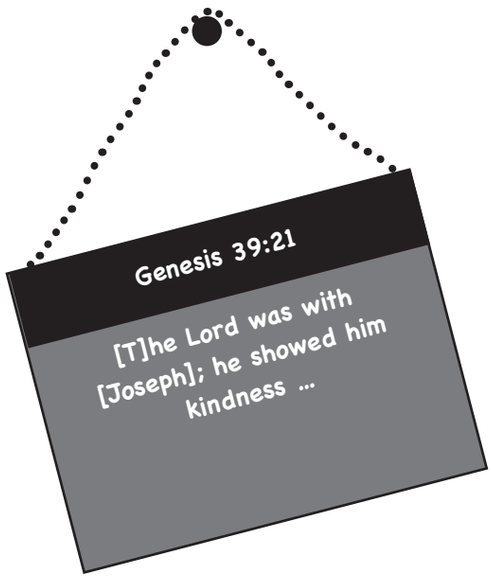


4. Joseph saw that this was an opportunity for him, too, so he asked the chief cupbearer to tell Pharaoh about Joseph's case when he returned to his job (40:14-15).
5. Then the chief baker told Joseph his dream, and Joseph told him the meaning (40:16-19).
6. Joseph's explanation of their dreams came true. But the chief cupbearer forgot to tell Pharaoh about Joseph. God allowed Joseph to stay in prison for two more years (40:20 – 41:1).

Our Response to the Story

Ask the children to think about the gifts God has given each of them. If you know the children well you can mention their gifts (for example, singing well or having a friendly nature). How can we use our gifts to honour God?

Instil the Memory Verse



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