

Lying Down and Getting Up!!!

July 23/25, 2010

(Read the following story from Genesis 39-41. Stop as indicated to let your child(ren) participate and respond. Show them where this story is found in your Bible.

God Blesses Joseph in Egypt

When Joseph went to Potiphar's house, Joseph worked hard and did his best for God. With God's help, Joseph did such a great job that Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole house!!

Everything was going great at Potiphar's house until one day, Potiphar's wife tried to talk Joseph into doing something really bad. *(Discuss with your child if there could be times when someone might try to talk them into doing something they knew was the wrong thing to do. Talk about what those things could be.)* Joseph said, "No!" But still, Potiphar's wife kept trying and trying to get Joseph to do something really bad. Joseph just kept telling her, "No, no, no!!!" This made Potiphar's wife mad, so she lied and told Potiphar that Joseph had tried to hurt her. Potiphar then had Joseph thrown into jail.

Joseph worked hard in jail and did his best for God. With God's help, Joseph did so well in jail that the prison warden put Joseph in charge of the whole jail! *(Discuss with your child how it's always good to do your best for God.)* One night while Joseph was in jail, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt had some really weird dreams. In one of the dreams, Pharaoh dreamt that seven beautiful and fat cows came out of the Nile River and started eating grass. Then seven skinny and ugly cows came out of the Nile River and ate the seven fat and beautiful cows. But even after they ate the seven fat and beautiful cows, the seven skinny and ugly cows were still skinny and ugly.

With God's help, Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, what the dreams meant. Joseph told Pharaoh that there would be seven good years when lots and lots of food would grow. Then there would be seven bad years when no food would grow at all. Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he put Joseph in charge of all of Egypt. Pharaoh gave Joseph his ring to wear and dressed Joseph in beautiful kingly robes. Pharaoh put a gold necklace around Joseph's neck and gave Joseph a fancy chariot to ride in. Everyone could see how important Joseph now was and everyone had to obey Joseph. Joseph worked hard and did his best for God. We should do our best for God, too.

Joseph saved all the extra food during the seven good years. Joseph saved so much food that they couldn't even count it all. What will happen when the seven bad years follow when food will not grow? We'll learn all about that next week!!

These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

— Deuteronomy 6:6-8

1. Who worked hard and did his best for God?
2. Where did Joseph work hard?
3. Who had weird dreams?
4. Who helped Joseph know what the dreams meant?

ANSWERS:
(1) Joseph (2) At Potiphar's house and in jail
(3) Pharaoh (4) God

At Home And On The Road

At a meal or in the car, discuss the following with your child.

How amazing it was that no matter where Joseph was or what he was doing, he always did his best for God. Even when he was in jail or someone told lies about him, he never got mad or did bad things. **We need to follow Joseph's example.**

Discussion: Discuss with your child how important it is this week to **again follow Joseph's example and do our best for God. Joseph was** an amazing servant of God. Last week we learned that Joseph did the right things and this week we learned that he always did his best. Discuss with your child how they can do their best for God - no matter what they are doing - **if it's cleaning their room, picking up their toys, or just obeying you!**

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1 to your child and show them where it is found in the Bible.

Knowledge puffs up but love builds up

Recite the verse using the following motions:

"Knowledge (point to head) puffs up (puff out cheeks) but Love (cross arms across chest) builds up" (raise hands over head).

Hands and Forehead

Enjoy the following scripture verse with your child.

Doorframes And Gates

Enjoy this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.

(Have fun with this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.)

I Can Help! At the beginning of the week, assign your child specific chores to do to help at home. Make a colorful chart **with each day's chores so your child can check them off as they do them** (put away toys, dust table, set table). Discuss with your child if they did their best for God!