

CAMPFIRE STORIES

Elementary
Week 3

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: Genesis 40-41

Dreams punctuated Joseph's story from the beginning. They turned his brothers against him and then became his get-out-of-jail-free card. Throughout his story Joseph's dreams showed God working through everything.

Joseph recognized that God was the only one who could interpret dreams. While he was in jail with the cupbearer and the baker, they told him their dreams and he told them their meanings. Joseph saw into the future for those two prisoners, just like he caught a glimpse of his own future from his dreams as a young man.

Interpreting the dreams paid off for Joseph eventually. But God's timing may have seemed slow. He had to wait two more years before being released from prison to interpret the ruler of Egypt's dreams. Finally, he was in the right place at the right time. Joseph reiterated what he told the cupbearer and the baker, that telling people what their dreams meant was not *his* skill, but God's. Then he predicted the famine to come. But Joseph didn't stop there—he also proposed a plan to Pharaoh to save his people from this disaster.

Pharaoh could see God working through Joseph. He was so impressed with this ex-con that he appointed him to be second-in-command and take charge of saving the entire country from starvation. Joseph's dreams had come true. He became a great ruler. But that was not because he was great, or because of good luck. His dreams came true because they were God's dreams for him. God saw from the beginning how Joseph would journey to Egypt to eventually save an entire population, as well as his own family, from starvation—the same family that wronged him horribly.

Joseph's story is an amazing story of the providence of God. What a great reminder to us not to be consumed by our momentary (or years-long) struggles and trials, but rather, like Joseph, to believe that God has a great plan for our lives and we are part of something much bigger than just ourselves.

How does Joseph's story give perspective on your current hardships?

Think through some ways God may be working through your life for the good of others.