

DIGGIN' DOTTIE AND THE MYSTERIOUS DREAMS

Preschool
Week 3

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Read: Genesis 40-41

Dreams punctuate Joseph's story from the beginning. Dreams accentuate the rift in his family and turn his brothers against him. Then dreams become his get-out-of-jail-free-card. Throughout his story, Joseph's dreams show God working through everything.

Joseph recognizes that God is the only one who can interpret dreams. The cupbearer and the baker tell him what they dreamed in jail, and he tells them the meaning. Joseph is seeing into the future for these two prisoners, just like he caught a glimpse of his own future from his dreams as a boy.

Telling the dreams pays off for Joseph eventually. But God's timing is a mystery, and when Joseph must wait two more years before being released from prison to interpret the ruler of Egypt's dreams, he is in the right place at the right time. Joseph reiterates what he told the cupbearer and the baker, that telling people what their dreams mean is not *his* skill, but God's. Then he predicts the famine to come. But Joseph doesn't stop there – he also proposes a plan to Pharaoh to save his people from this disaster.

Pharaoh can see God working through Joseph. He is so impressed with this ex-con that he elevates him to second-in-command over Egypt and asks him to oversee the resources to save the entire country from starvation. Joseph's dreams have come true, and he is now a great ruler. But now he knows that it is not because he is great, or because of good luck. His dreams have come true because they are God's dreams for him. God saw from the beginning how Joseph's story would play out and how Joseph would journey to Egypt to eventually save his own family from starvation – the same family that wronged him horribly.

Joseph's story is one of the providence of God. What a great reminder to us not to be consumed by our 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. It's no accident that Joseph ends up naming his second child a name that means: "I had great troubles, but God has made me successful in everything." (Genesis 41:52)

Think through some ways God may be working through your life for the good of others. How does Joseph's story give you perspective on your current hardships?