

Genesis 40

Joseph was in jail! Most times people go to jail because they are bad, don't they? But Joseph was put in jail because he did something good! Joseph had refused to lie and hurt his boss and that made the boss's wife mad at him. She had Joseph put in jail. But God knew Joseph was a good man and God took care of Joseph while he was in the prison. The keeper of the prison began to like Joseph and soon he put Joseph in a high position and asked Joseph to help him take care of the other prisoners.

Joseph would take food to the prisoners and he would keep track of which ones were to be released and which ones were to stay. He would probably help the keeper of the prison with what supplies to order and keep records for the keeper of the prisoners.

The Bible tells us that whatever we do and where ever we are, we are to always do our best for others. To help others and try to be kind to them. This is what Joseph did and it pleased God.



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2.

One day two new prisoners were brought to the jail. Joseph wondered why they were there, for they were important servants of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. One was the chief baker and cooked all different kinds of fancy bread and rolls and cakes for Pharaoh. The other prisoner was the chief butler, who served Pharaoh his special wine in a beautiful gold cup. These were important jobs, for the baker and butler had to make sure Pharaoh's food wasn't poisoned or didn't make him sick. Perhaps Pharaoh had gotten a tummy ache and got mad at his chief baker and chief butler, so he had them thrown in jail.

One day when Joseph took them their food, he saw that they were both worried looking and wouldn't eat. "What's the matter?" Joseph asked
 "We both had bad dreams and don't know what they mean."
 The butler said.

Do you ever have bad dreams? Sometimes our bad dreams make us scared or worried, don't they? Sometimes we have good dreams too. I think this boy is having a good dream, don't you?



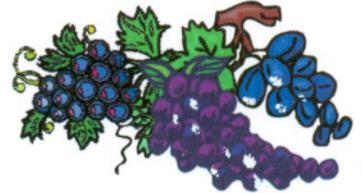
Joseph said to the butler and the baker, "Tell me what you dreamed, perhaps I can help you." The butler said, "This is what I dreamed, I saw three branches on a grape vine and some big, purple grapes grew on the vines. I squeezed the grapes into Pharaoh's wine cup and put it in Pharaoh's hand. Can you tell me what that means?"

Joseph replied, "No man can interpret dreams, but God can tell us what your dreams mean. I will pray to God and perhaps he will show me what they mean." Joseph said a prayer and God heard him and answered Joseph's prayer."

Joseph told the butler, "This is what God showed me. The three branches on the grape vine mean three days. In three days you will return to Pharaoh's palace. Pharaoh will be happy with you again and you will serve him his special wine every day." This made the butler very happy.

Joseph asked the butler to tell Pharaoh about him, "tell him I'm here in jail for no reason, ask him to help me get out of jail."

"I will, the butler said."



When the baker saw what a good dream the butler had, he also wanted to tell Joseph about his dream. "Here's what I dreamed," the baker said. "I was carrying three baskets full of all kinds of breads on my head and suddenly birds came and ate all the bread in the baskets. Do you know what this dream means?"

Joseph again prayed for God's help, then he sadly looked at the baker and said, "Your dream is not a good one, but it will come true. The three baskets are three days and in three days time Pharaoh will have you put to death."

The dreams did come true. In three days the baker was put to death but the butler was given his job back and he took the king his wine each day. However, when the butler went back to work for Pharaoh, he forgot all about poor Joseph in the jail. Joseph waited and waited, hoping the butler would send for him and Pharaoh would set him free. But the butler had forgotten him. However, God hadn't forgotten Joseph, as we'll see in our next Bible lesson.

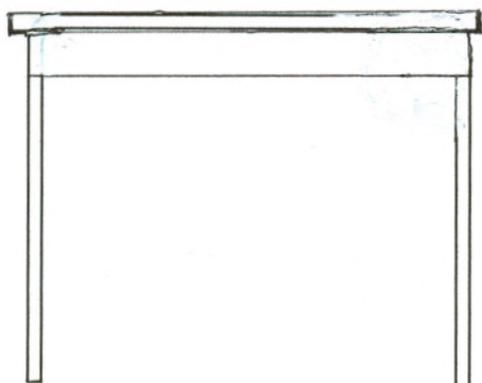


Question Page

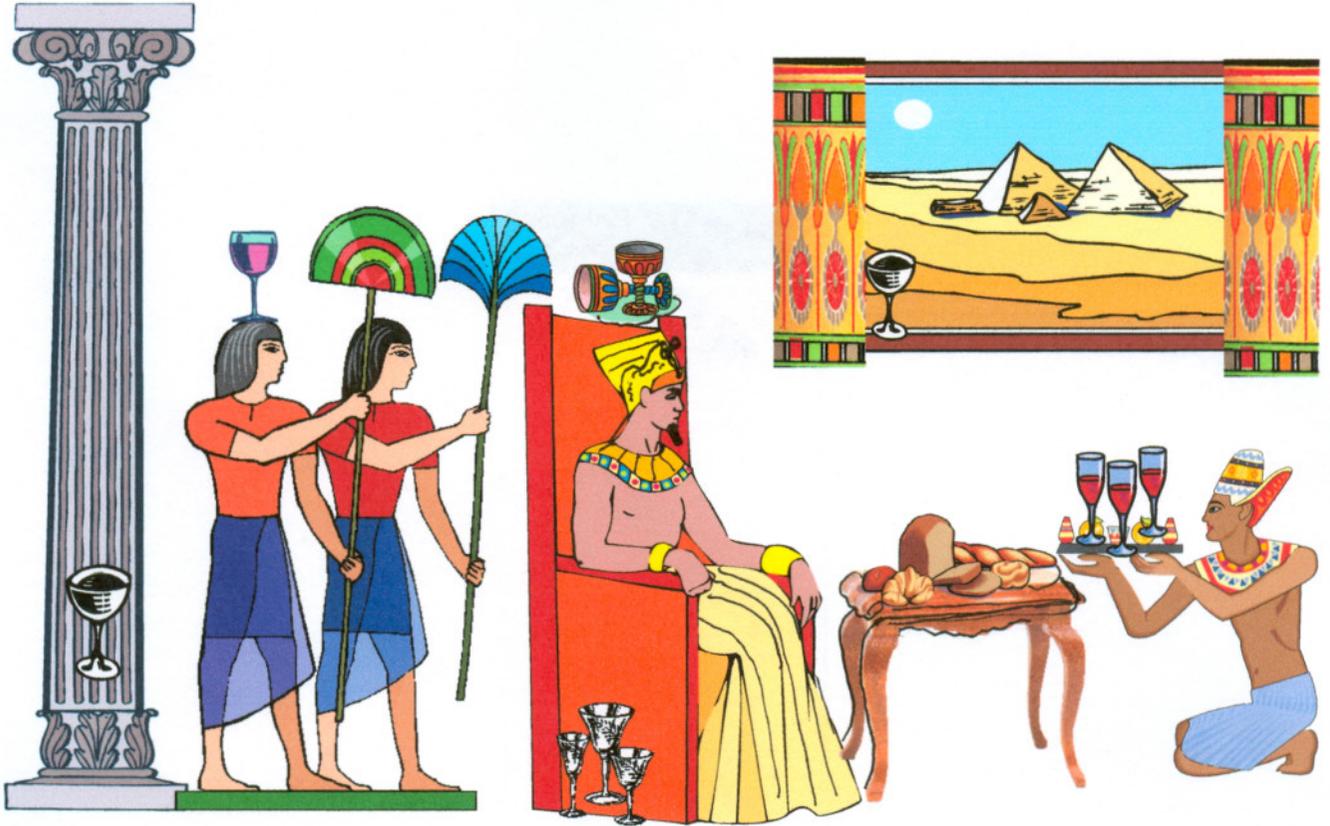
1. Was Joseph put in jail because he was a bad person or because a bad person told a lie about him?
2. Did God take care of Joseph while he was in jail?
3. Did the keeper of the prison treat Joseph mean or did he like Joseph?
4. What were some of the jobs Joseph had when he was in the prison?
5. Two chief servants of Pharaoh were put in prison. What were their jobs? (Pick one)
(a) They swept the floor and dusted (b) They baked food and gave Pharaoh drinks
6. What kinds of food did the baker make?
7. What kinds of drink did the butler give Pharaoh?
8. How many branches of grapes and how many baskets of bread were in the dreams?
(a) 1 vine and 1 basket (b) 2 vines and 2 baskets (c) 3 vines and 3 baskets
9. What did the number of vines and baskets mean? (3 days or 2 years or 1 month?)
10. Who helped Joseph learn what the dreams meant?
11. Did the butler remember Joseph when he started working for Pharaoh again?

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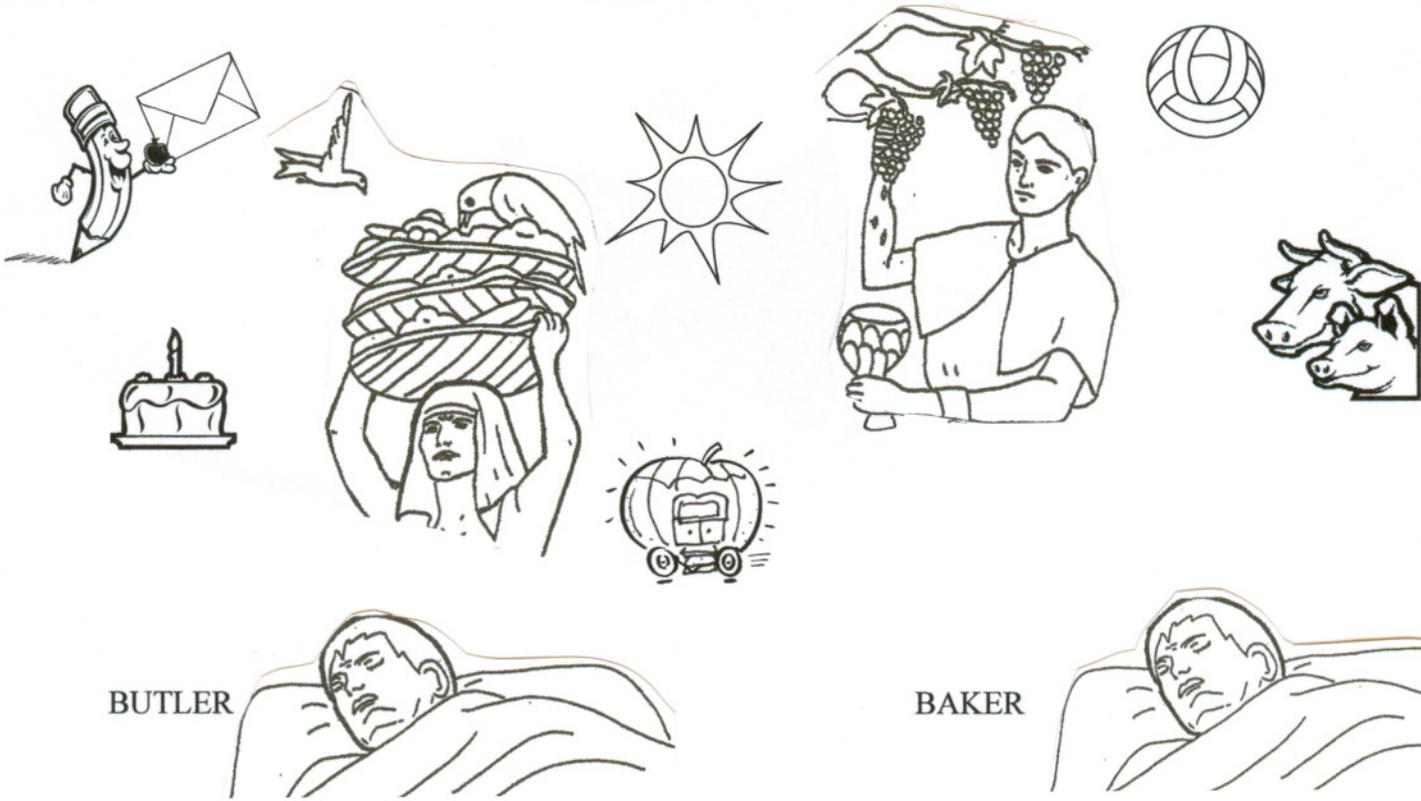
Below is an Egyptian who is serving food, just like Joseph did when he worked for the keeper of the prison. Color the picture with some pretty, bright colors. Draw some more food on the table.



There are 11 wine glasses in this picture of Pharaoh in his palace. Can you find all of them?



Draw a line from the butler to the thing he dreamed about then draw a line from the baker to the thing he dreamed about. Put an X on the things they didn't dream about and color the picture



The Bible tells us to be kind to each other and to help our parents. One way to be kind and help is to feed our pets. Below are some pets and some food. Draw a line from the pets to the right kind of food for them.

