

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God watches over us!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
DARKNESS IN LIGHT: Kids use a paint technique to create inspirational cards to send to church members who are homebound or on the church prayer list.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Computers with Microsoft Paint or Kid Pix® or similar software, cardstock, markers, scissors, glue sticks, color printer, list of church members who are homebound or on the prayer list
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us gifts to care for one another.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles
DREAM INTERPRETER WANTED: Kids study Pharaoh's dreams and how Joseph knew what they meant as they write a want ad and create dream journal.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Computers with word processing and drawing software, printer paper, construction paper, markers, glue sticks, stapler, clip art CDs, want ads from the newspaper
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us gifts to care for one another!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
PHARAOH'S DREAMS: Kids recreate Pharaoh's dreams with modern-day imagery.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Computers with Microsoft Paint or Kid Pix® or similar drawing software, color printer



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: God watches over us!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

Gather the kids in a circle on the floor for this portion of the lesson—computers are not yet needed.

Greet kids as they arrive. **Welcome to our Computer Lab! I'm so pleased you could join us today. We are going to hear a very special story about a guy named Joseph. At the beginning of our story, things hadn't gone very well for Joseph. He had a lot of bad things happen to him that he didn't deserve. First, his brothers sold him as a slave and he had to go live in a strange country—Egypt. THEN, he got thrown in jail for something he didn't even do! Have you ever gotten in trouble when it wasn't your fault?** Listen to the kids' responses.

Let's read our story and see if Joseph got out of his bad place. Read Pharaoh's Dreams and Joseph Helps His Family from the Spark Story Bible, pages 54-65. **Did Joseph's life get better in our story? Sure it did. He went from being in jail to being one of the most important people in Egypt, and he was able to save his family from starvation. God had big plans for Joseph. Pharaoh wouldn't have known about Joseph's ability—given him by God—to interpret dreams if it weren't for the "bad time" that Joseph spent in jail.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Darkness in Light

Set Up: Consider turning off the monitors and having the window shades closed if possible. When lights are turned off in this activity, you will want the room to be as dark as possible. If kids need to share computers, plan how they'll work in groups of two or three. If you are not familiar with the church's drawing software, be sure to review its functions and commands.

Activity Instructions

When bad things happen, we often refer to them as dark times, don't we?

Joseph had some dark times. Who can name some of Joseph's dark times? Take just a few answers.

We are going to turn out the lights. If you don't like the dark go by your Shepherd. We won't have the lights out for long. Cue the Shepherd to turn out the lights. Ask the children what they are able to see—particularly before their eyes adjust. **In the darkness, it can be hard to see. Joseph couldn't see how God was going to get him out of the darkness, but Joseph believed God would be with him and lead him out of the darkness.**

Now cue the Shepherd to turn the lights back on.

Dark times can be scary, but God watches over us in dark times. God did that for Joseph in our story and God can do it for us, too!

Today, there are many people who can be in dark places and need a reminder that God is working in their lives. We are going to make cards to send to the people from our church who are homebound or on the church prayer list. Some of these people are sick, and some can no longer make it to church to hear about God. Let's help bring them the light of God today, okay?

Help the kids to open the drawing program on their computers. **We are going to make a cover for the front of our cards on the computer. Since we are talking about light in darkness, the first thing I want you to do is fill in your whole screen so it is black. Once your screen is black, use colors to draw a picture. This way, the people who get your card will get the message about how God is a light even in dark times.**

After the kids make their pictures, supervise them as they print them out, cut them down as necessary, and paste them to the cover of a folded piece of cardstock. Finally have them write on the inside of the card, "God is with you, watching over you, a light shining in the darkness." Then ask them to write a personal note to the recipient and sign the card. Children who work fast can print out more than one copy of their picture and make a card for another recipient.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Computers with Microsoft Paint, Kid Pix®, or similar drawing software

Cardstock, 8 1/2 x 11 (22 x 28 cm, 1 per kid)

Markers

Glue sticks

Scissors

Color printer (preferable, but not necessary)

List of church members who are homebound or on the prayer list

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Joseph had to deal with being in jail, but he trusted in God and God helped him out of the dark times. Sometimes it can be hard to see God when it is dark, but it is important to have faith and know that God is always with us. After all, did Joseph stay in jail? What happened in his story? Have the kids tell you what happened to review the lesson. **Great! You really know the story well. When we close in prayer, let's pray for the people we made cards for today.** Have the kids insert the name of their card's recipient in the appropriate part of the prayer.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let us pray:

God, creator of light,

Help us see you in dark times and in light ones. Give us the strength to share your light with the world. We pray especially for those who may be in dark times, especially . . . insert names here . . . Remind them and remind us that you always watch over us! Amen.

Workshop Focus: God gives us gifts to care for one another!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

Pass out the Spark Bibles to the kids as they arrive. Gather the kids in a circle on the floor for this portion of the lesson—computers are not yet needed.

Greet kids as they arrive. **Welcome to our Computer Lab! It's great to see everyone here today! I hope you are ready to have some fun! Today we are going to learn about Joseph. Joseph was good at a lot of things, but one of the things he was especially good at was interpreting dreams. Have you ever had strange dreams? Did you want to know if they meant anything?** Take their responses. **Not all dreams mean something; some are just silly, but in Joseph's day, dreams were one of the ways that God talked to people.**

In our story today, Joseph interpreted some important people's dreams. That not only helped him but also saved a whole country and his family. Let's read our story together. Open your Spark Bibles to Genesis 41, page 46. Have readers read the following passages.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

41:1-8
41:25-27
41:41-43
41:47-49
42:1-6
45:1-3
47:1

Now tell the kids that Joseph's father dies and the brothers fear that Joseph will take revenge upon them.

50:15-21

Where was Joseph in the beginning of the story? (Jail) Joseph was there for something that he didn't do, and it might have been hard for him to see a way out of jail. But God gave him a skill that helped him to get out of jail and to help others, too. What was one of those skills? (interpreting dreams)

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Dream Interpreter Wanted

Set Up: If kids need to share computers, plan how they'll work in groups of two or three. Make sure all the computers are on and ready to go. Place a few examples of want ads at each computer.

Activity Instructions

Today, we are going to do two activities to help us with our story and to talk more about dreams. In our story, Pharaoh had dreams that made him afraid. Do you remember what those dreams were? Have the kids recount Pharaoh's dreams for you. **Very good. He needed someone to interpret the dreams for him. Lucky for him, Joseph was in jail.**

Sometimes today people look for help in the want ads. Do you know what the want ads are? People can write short notes looking for help. Some of them look for people to hire for jobs. Others look for a new car or a house to buy. Sometimes you can even find pets or musical instruments in the want ads. I wonder what it would have looked like if Pharaoh had taken out a want ad about his dreams, asking for help interpreting his dreams.

Explain to the kids that they are going to write a fake want ad from Pharaoh looking for help with his dreams. Give them some want ads to use as an example and help them open the word-processing software to write the want ad. When everyone has finished, bring the kids together and have them share their ads with the class.

Those are some great ads. I bet Joseph would have answered them if he could have. Nevertheless, Pharaoh didn't need a want ad because he had heard about Joseph already. Do you remember what Joseph said the pharaoh's dreams

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Computers with Microsoft Word and Microsoft Paint or similar software
Construction paper
Printer paper, five sheets per kid
Markers (if needed)
Glue sticks (if needed)
Stapler
Clip art CDs (optional)
Want ads from the newspaper

meant? Give the kids time to answer and encourage them to look it up if they don't remember. **That's right!**

For our second activity today, we are going to make a dream journal. In a dream journal, we can write down our dreams and we can also write about what we think they might mean. We can pray about our dreams if we are worried, but this is just for fun to see what our brains are thinking when we are asleep.

Explain to the kids that they are going to first make some mostly blank pages with space for a date, the dream, what happened the day before, and possible meanings as headings on the paper. Make sure they leave enough room for writing. Then they can open up the drawing program and make a cover for their dream journals. Encourage them to make original artwork for the cover or use the clip art CD if they like. They can print out the cover on construction paper if they wish. Be sure to leave time to print out the sheets and staple them in booklet form before the end of class.

Now when you go home, you can put this next to your bed. Each morning, you can write down the dreams that you had in the night. It is best to write down dreams in the morning because that is when you remember them the best. Then you can be like Joseph and try to interpret them!

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Joseph had help in interpreting the dreams. He had God's help. God sent the dreams to Pharaoh and God helped Joseph interpret them. God helps us, too, when things seem scary or strange. If we have a dream that we don't understand, it will make us feel better if we pray to God about it. Even if we don't know what a dream means, we know things are all right because we know God is on our side!

Did you kids have fun today? I know that I did. What is one thing you learned from the lesson today? Allow time for the kids to respond. **That's wonderful. Let's close in prayer.**

Prayer Time

Dear God,
Sometimes, there can be mysteries in the world, especially our dreams. Thank you for giving Joseph the gift of interpreting Pharaoh's dreams so he could save Egypt. Thank you for giving us gifts so we can help others, too. Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Workshop Focus: God gives us gifts to care for one another!

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

Gather the kids in a circle on the floor for this portion of the lesson—computers are not yet needed.

Greet kids as they arrive. **Welcome to our Computer Lab! Today we are going to learn about a guy named Joseph who ended up saving a whole country of people. Before we hear our story, do you know anything about Joseph?** Give the kids a chance to share what they know already, particularly if they have just completed the Joseph and His Brothers rotation.

You know a lot about Joseph already. In our story today we are going to talk about the part of Joseph's story when he is already in Egypt. The story starts with him in jail, but it ends with him saving the lives of many people! Let's look up our story together and read it. The older kids will enjoy looking at the pictures in the Spark Story Bible. Have everyone turn to Pharaoh's Dreams on page 54 and choose volunteers to read through page 59.

Whom did Joseph save in our story? (his family, the Egyptians, Pharaoh) How did Joseph save them? (He interpreted Pharaoh's dreams about the famine.) A famine can happen for a lot of reasons. If there is too much rain or not enough rain, the

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

crops can't grow and so there isn't enough food for everyone. Famines are very serious because people might starve. Since Joseph—with God's help—could interpret Pharaoh's dreams, he saved all those people! There is even more to this story. Tell the kids that Joseph's father dies and his brothers are afraid that Joseph will take revenge on them now for selling him into slavery. **Let's see what happens.** Ask the older kids to find Genesis 50 in their Spark Bibles. It begins on page 58. Ask for a volunteer to read verses 15-21. **Does Joseph take revenge? No! Joseph follows God's command and forgives his brothers.**

Allow time for older kids to place an appropriate sticker in their Bibles. Encourage them to allow the younger kids to help them.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Pharaoh's Dreams

Set Up: If kids need to share computers, plan how they'll work in groups of two or three. Make sure all the computers are on and the program is open and ready to go.

Spark Resources
None

Activity Instructions

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of organizing the resources for the famine because he was able to interpret the dreams that Pharaoh had. Because of his ability to interpret the dreams, Joseph was freed from jail and he saved a lot of people. Still, his gift for interpreting dreams came from God. God was with him, helping him save his own family and all the people of Egypt!

Supplies

Computers with Microsoft Paint, Kid Pix®, or similar drawing software
Color printer (preferable, but not necessary)

Let's review Pharaoh's dreams since we will need to know them well for our activity today. What was first thing he dreamed about? (*seven fat healthy cows*) **And what happened to those cows?** (*They were eaten by seven skinny cows.*) **And when the skinny cows ate the fat ones, did they get fatter?** (*No, they stayed skinny.*) **What about the grain in the next part of the dream?** Guide the kids through the second part of the dream in the same way.

Great! Now, Joseph said that both of these dreams meant the same thing. What did he say they meant? (*There would be seven good years and then seven years of famine.*) **For the first part of our lesson today, we are going to draw pictures of one of Pharaoh's dreams. You can choose either the cow dream or the grain dream, but remember to show what really happened.**

Give the kids an opportunity to create their pictures of Pharaoh's dream using drawing software. Give them a chance to really imagine what one of the dreams must have looked like. After they have created their pictures, print them out and give kids a chance to show them to the class.

Those are great pictures. You really did some great drawings of Pharaoh's dreams. I wonder something, though. What do you think it would look like if one of our rulers, like our President, had a dream with the same meaning? Do you think the dream would look the same? Would the dream still involve grain and cows? Remember, God uses what is familiar to us to teach us lessons. Most of us aren't around cows or fields of grain, are we? So, how might God send us the same lesson in a dream? Take their answers. **This time, try painting a dream with the same meaning (seven good years of food and seven years of famine) in your own way.**

Again, give the kids an opportunity to create. Then print out their pictures and have them explain what they drew and why. Really encourage them to explain why this picture of a dream shows the same meaning as Pharaoh's dream. Be sure to send copies of both pictures home with the kids—they can ask their families what they think the dreams mean.

You kids did a great job. I really liked your modern versions of the dream. Joseph was able to save people because God gave him the gift of interpreting dreams. Because of his gift, lots of people had food to eat. Sometimes, God gives us gifts that can seem strange. Who would think that interpreting dreams would save lives? But it did for Joseph and the Egyptians. Who knows? The gifts that God gives us may help people in ways we don't know about.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

I really liked your paintings today. You kids have a lot of great ideas for how Pharaoh's dreams might look today. God helped Joseph save a lot of people in our story because of his gift of interpreting dreams. God may also help us help other people one day because of our gifts. Even though Joseph had been in jail, he was still faithful to God and the gifts he was given. Because of this, God was able to use Joseph to care for Egypt and Pharaoh as well as Joseph and his family. What gifts do you have? Take their answers. **I can't wait to see how God uses those gifts to help the world just like Joseph.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for giving Joseph the gift of interpreting dreams. We are so glad he was able to save so many people. Help us to use the gifts you give us to help others, too! Amen.