



Joseph and Pharaoh

Welcome to the story of Joseph and Pharaoh! Enjoy leading a small group of kids as they experience this Bible story through songs, stories, conversation, and workshops. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Pharaoh Fun**

Pharaoh was the leader of the Egyptian people. He had a lot of riches and a lot of power. Think about what kind of fun a pharaoh might have. How about counting the bricks in a pyramid? What about going barefoot in the sand? Maybe having an artist create a hieroglyphic figure based on your appearance! Use your brains to come up with humorous ways a pharaoh might have fun.

- **Baker's Dream**

The baker was in prison with Joseph and had a dream. Bakers are good at creating new and tasty food. What are some of your favorite baked foods? If you were a baker, what would you create in your kitchen?

- **Whenever You Feel Afraid**

Many times during the life of Joseph, he and his brothers felt afraid. When do you feel afraid? Talk about times when you feel afraid. Remind your kids that God is with us when we are afraid.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why do you think Joseph found favor with God?
- Why did Pharaoh trust a slave, Joseph, to watch over his house and fields?
- Talk about the words "plenty" and "famine."
- Have you ever been to a family reunion? What was it like?
- Why did Joseph forgive his brothers?
- Why is it important to "speak kindly" to one another?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Cow Talk**

Pharaoh's dream was about cows. Make some cow noises as you move to your next destination. First, try making noises like very healthy, round cows. Now try making noises like very sick, thin cows.

- **Birds on the Wing**

In the baker's dream, birds ate the bread from the baker's head! Flap your wings and fly as a flock to the next place. Are you little birds with short, fast wings or majestic eagles with large, slow-moving wings?

- **Eating Corn**

Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams helped Pharaoh know to save up grain for seven years. One kind of grain that is offered to hungry people now is cornmeal. Cornmeal comes from dried corn. Have you ever eaten corn on the cob? Hold that corncob and chew up and down the cob as your group walks to the next place. Remember to turn the cob around so you don't miss any corn!

- **Chariot Ride**

Joseph rode a chariot over the land he now ruled. A chariot is like a fancy cart that is pulled by horses. The horses would be galloping as they pulled the chariot. Gallop like horses!

Welcome to the story of Joseph and Pharaoh! Enjoy leading a small group of kids as they experience this Bible story through songs, stories, conversation, and workshops. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Same Name**

Joseph had eleven brothers and one sister—that's a lot of names to remember! Play a name game. Each person says his or her first name and shares someone else who has the same name or a similar name. Examples: "My name is James, the same as the disciple James." "My name is Barb, the same as my grandma's middle name, Barbara."

- **Good Times**

Joseph faced difficult situations and people who wanted to harm him. God took evil in Joseph's life and turned it into good. Have you had experiences where bad things turned into good things? Share any of your experiences with the group. Talk about how God is in these times of trouble.

- **Life Preserver**

Joseph was a life preserver. He found a way to save grain from the time of plenty to provide life for others during famine. Talk about other ways that people in the Bible preserved life. In our world today, how can we preserve life for the future?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why did Joseph keep his identity a secret from his brothers for so long?
- Why do you think God lets famine happen both in Egypt long ago and in some countries now?
- Joseph and his brothers finally were *reconciled*, or brought back together. Is there a relationship that needs to be reconciled in your life?
- How did Joseph's behavior help others understand that he was with God?
- How did loyalty to family and to Pharaoh affect Joseph's life?
- Why is it important that we pay attention to our dreams?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Grapevine Walk**

The cupbearer had a dream about a grapevine. Make a group grapevine by having everyone hold hands with every other person facing the opposite direction. Right hands will be joined to your neighbor's right hand, palm to palm. Vine your way forward, following the leader.

- **Facial Features**

Use your facial expression to show these emotions as you move along your way: Pharaoh's officer was downcast. The brothers wept. Pharaoh was pleased. Pharaoh was angry. Joseph was happy. The brothers were distressed.

- **Joseph's Team**

Do a team cheer for Joseph, who saved food during times of plenty so there would be food during the famine: Give me a J. *J!* Give me an O. *O!* Continue until you have cheered for Joseph three times.

- **Reed Grass**

The cows in Pharaoh's dream were eating reed grass by the Nile. Grass blows in the wind. Pretend you are grass that blows in a light breeze or a heavy wind.

Welcome to the story of Joseph and Pharaoh! Enjoy leading a small group of kids as they experience this Bible story through songs, stories, conversation, and workshops. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Caring for Others**

Joseph cared for others in prison and in all of Egypt. Talk about ways you can help care for others at home, at school, and in the world. Does your church do anything to help people in prison, or people just released from prison?

- **Identity Crisis**

Joseph's brothers did not know his identity. Have each person choose a character from the Joseph story and act out that person's identity. See who can guess the character identity of each actor.

- **Grains Galore**

There are many kinds of grain. In ancient Egypt, there were also grains like kamut, also called "King Tut's grain," and teff, a nutritious grain that turns green when cooked. How many grains can you name?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Have you every caused trouble for someone else? How?
- Describe a time when you felt God was on your side.
- If you were the Pharaoh, how would you rule Egypt?
- Joseph's brothers walked many long journeys. Talk about long walks that you have taken. Could you walk 100 miles (160 km)? 200 miles (322 km)?
- What does it mean when you say someone is *successful*?
- Why did people trust Joseph?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **River Walk**

Pharaoh's dream involved walking down the Nile River. Pretend you are walking down the Nile River. The river winds along and so do you. Oops, you got your feet wet!

- **Counting Seven**

The land of Egypt had seven years of famine and seven years of plenty. Pick one kid to be the first leader of your group. Have them do one action seven times and have all the kids follow that action. Then the leader goes to the back of the line and the next leader does a different action seven times. As the group follows, the second leader goes to the end of the line. Keep moving until everyone has been leader.

- **Flocks and Herds**

The pharaoh has flocks and herds of animals. Flocks and herds follow one leader away from danger or toward food and water. Choose a leader who will move the entire herd toward the next place. Follow the leader of your flock or herd by watching carefully.

- **What's in the Basket?**

In the baker's dream, he had bread in his basket. Pass a pretend empty basket. When the basket comes to each person ask, "What's in the Basket?" Each person tells the group something from the story that might be in the basket. Pass the basket to the next person.