



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God is There in Tough Times  
Fall Year 2, Lesson 26

# Pharaoh's Dreams

**Bible Event:** Genesis 39:20, 41:15-40

**Take Home Point:** \*EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God rescues me.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** Jesus rescued me from sin when he died on the cross.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that we all go through tough times, but we can always depend on God. Even though we may not get rescued from a specific situation, God is always with us. What we are rescued from, however, is the punishment of sin. Kids will take home the point **\*EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God rescues me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event, telling it from first person point of view. This person should be introduced by asking the children to put on their imagination hats and imagine that this really is the person in the Bible story.

Joseph comes onto the stage holding a pair of handcuffs to tell this week's portion of the story.

**Hi. I am Jacob's son, Joseph, and I am back to tell you more about my tough times. Last week I told you about the mean things my brothers did to me. Do you remember? They threw me into a pit and then sold me to some people to become a slave. Here's what happened next.**

**I got taken to Egypt and was made a slave. I had a pretty good master, but then another terrible thing happened. I got thrown into jail! Show handcuffs or put them on. Someone told a lie about me and I got thrown into jail even though I hadn't done anything wrong. It was very sad. This was a tough time. Have you ever had a time when you were sad or scared or felt everyone left you? It's a tough time. But even during this tough time, God was still with me.**

**You see, once I had been in jail for a while, God gave me a gift. I was able to interpret dreams! That meant that people would tell me their**

**dreams and God helped me explain what the dreams meant. Because I could do this, I was able to get out of jail and help the leader of Egypt, the Pharaoh, interpret his dreams! That was a really big job!**

**The Pharaoh dreamed that seven big, fat healthy cows came out of the river. If you have any stuffed animals that would represent the healthy cows, use them to show the kids. Have them count them out loud. Then seven skinny, ugly cows came out of the river. And then the seven skinny, ugly cows ate the seven fat healthy cows! The Pharaoh also dreamed that seven big healthy heads of grain grew along with seven more scrawny, skinny heads. Then, just like the first dream, the seven scrawny skinny heads of grain swallowed the seven big healthy heads of grain.**

**The Pharaoh asked me if I could explain such weird dreams. I told him that God would help me explain those dreams. Both dreams meant the same thing. The seven healthy cows and the seven big heads of grain meant that Egypt was going to have seven good years to farm and grow crops. But the seven skinny cows and the seven scrawny heads of grain meant that Egypt would then have seven bad years of not being able to grow any crops or have any animals!**

**God was with me when I interpreted those dreams and helped me come up with a plan to help save Egypt. I told Pharaoh that he should save up all the food he could during the seven good years so that when the seven bad years came, there would be food left over. Then the people of Egypt would be able to eat and make it through the seven bad years.**

**The Pharaoh thought that that was a good plan and put me in charge! Just like that, I had gone from being thrown in jail, to being Pharaoh's helper and in charge of all the people of Egypt! That just goes to show that God always has a plan for us. When I was going through very tough times in jail, God was able to rescue me! You should remember that God is always with you, too. \*EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God rescues me.***



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

*During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.*

**Snack Zone:** Cut a peeled banana in half. Then, cut each half into quarters lengthwise. Give each child a piece of banana to dip into a cup of Rice Krispies cereal. The end result should be a thin banana 'stick' with Rice Krispies stuck on one end to resemble a grain stalk.

**Drama Zone:** Create a 'jail' under a table or in a large box. Allow students to get out of jail if they can recite the take-home point. Another option: Provide farm animals and toys.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to discuss tough times and how God can rescue us.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of Pharaoh's dreams from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #22 "Pharaoh's Dream" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

**Craft Zone:** Create a corn stalk or stalk of grain out of newspaper. Tightly roll a section of newspaper and tape. Pull the inner rolls of the paper out to create an elongated tube. Use scissors to make slits around the top edge to create a corn stalk effect. Attach a pre-made label "Pharaoh's Dreams."

**Play Zone:** Play a variation of the parachute game. Send kids to 'jail' (under the parachute) by calling out various characteristics. For example, anyone wearing tennis shoes goes to jail. When "jail-break" is called, kids can come back out.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's Dreams.

**Music Zone:** Your choice of music.

**Coloring Zone:** "Pharaoh's Dreams" coloring page



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a turban on his head declaring that he can interpret dreams. The presenter decides to play along and asks Bubba to interpret some of his dreams. The presenter's first dream is that he was being chased down the street by a giant banana that was trying to eat him and was throwing nuts at him. Bubba explains that that dream simply means that the presenter is going bananas and is surrounded by a bunch of nuts. The presenter doesn't think that's it, but gives Bubba another chance. The next dream was exactly the same except that Bubba was the one being chased by the giant banana. Bubba simply explains that that means he's the top banana and gets to be boss over all of the nutty people.

The presenter doesn't believe Bubba, but gives him one more chance. The presenter asks Bubba to interpret Pharaoh's dreams about the cows and the grain stalks. Bubba thinks for a minute, but can't come up with any explanation. The kids then explain the event to Bubba.

The presenter wraps up by explaining that God rescued Joseph by giving him the ability to interpret dreams. God still rescues us today, but not like that. Instead, we are rescued in a much bigger way. God rescues us from the punishment of sin. When God sent Jesus to the cross to die for us, we became saved. God rescued us so that we could be friends with him forever in heaven. That's amazing! Remember: **\*EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God rescues us.**

### Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- Bible
- handcuffs

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- bananas
- Rice Krispies

### *Drama:*

- large box or table made into a jail
- optional: farm toys and animals

### *Craft:*

- section of newspaper for each child
- tape
- scissors
- pre-made label "Pharaoh's Dreams"

### *Play:*

- parachute

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Music:*

- your choice

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to re-enact story (For example, use Lesson #22 "Pharaoh's Dream" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- turban

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books