



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Pass The Promise Series, Lesson 24

**Lesson Title:** Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt

**Take Home Point:** God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us.

#### **Warm-Up:**

A little girl watched her mother sit on the sofa working on an intricate embroidery project. She was fascinated because her mother had told her how beautiful it would be. Each evening the girl's mother would get the project down from the shelf and add to it. Day after day the child watched. She could not see the front of the picture, but on the back she saw threads cross each other and small knots with string ends attached. She couldn't see pattern or beauty. Finally she could stand it no longer and said, "I don't know, Mom. From here it's just a mess!" Her mom smiled and replied, "That's because you only see the working side. Look at it as I see it. What you can see doesn't make sense, but when I am done it will be a beautiful picture for everyone to appreciate and enjoy."

**Read:** Genesis 41

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

Why did God give Pharaoh the two dreams?

How did God show Joseph that he continued to be with him and bless him?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Why do you think Pharaoh was troubled by his dreams?

How did Joseph demonstrate that he was truly a discerning and wise man?

#### **Insight:**

By the end of this chapter, Joseph is out of jail and in favor with Egypt's supreme ruler, demonstrates God's concern for the people of Egypt, is the second most powerful man in the land, and marries the daughter of a priest. It's easy to think he can put aside his difficult times. But look in verses 51-52 to see how he names his sons. Manasseh sounds like the Hebrew word for "forget," and Ephraim sounds like the Hebrew for "twice fruitful." Joseph recalls what he has been through, "in the land of my suffering." He also knows God is always with him. When we go through tragedy or hardship, God doesn't expect us to pretend things are great. He knows some of our experiences are painful, horrible, almost overwhelming. But those things draw us to God in need, and when they are past, in thanksgiving. Just like Joseph, we can look back and see God in our hardships and trials if we choose to do so.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

What is one bad thing that has happened to you? How did you respond during your time of difficulty? How did God show his power on your behalf? What lesson(s) from God did you learn? How has the experience prepared you for life today?