**Sunday School from Home**

**September 27, 2020**

The story of Joseph continues this week after he arrives in Egypt. He is sold as a slave to a wealthy man named Potiphar, and eventually thrown in jail when he is falsely accused of a crime. In both circumstances, God is with Joseph and helps him to use his talents to benefit others.

* Read the story: Genesis chapter 39 and 40.
* This is a longer reading, although mostly an easy to follow narrative. For some children, it might be beneficial to edit some sections for length or for content (such as sexual harassment and rape accusations in chapter 39, and a violent death in chapter 40).
* Here is cartoon [VIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SCAXrEmRRA) showing the story, and a little bit beyond into the story for next week.
* The setting of ancient Egypt in this story is a great opportunity to study a little about the culture. Explore online about the Pharaohs, the religions of Egypt, the pyramids, etc. This investigations can be tailored to your child’s interests (or yours!). The Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh has a wonderful Egyptian exhibit that you might want to visit. Or, you can read about it [HERE](https://carnegiemnh.org/explore/walton-hall-of-ancient-egypt/).
* Children and adults are often fascinated by the pyramids in particular. Read about some of the various types [HERE](https://knowledgenuts.com/2014/02/07/the-different-types-of-egyptian-pyramids/). Then for a STEAM activity, try building some out of whatever materials you have at home. Some things that may work are blocks or Legos, toothpicks and marshmallows, or sugar cubes.
* While Joseph is in prison, we meet the Pharaoh’s cup bearer and baker. The cupbearer would have brought Pharaoh good things to drink in beautifully decorated cups. For a fun project, allow your children to decorate a plastic cup with markers, stickers, etc. Then give them a drink of their choice and let them pretend to be a Pharaoh!
* Joseph also meets Pharaoh’s baker, who would have made good things for Pharaoh to eat. The Egyptians may have been the first people to use yeast to bake bread, which improves the texture and flavor of bread and makes it into something more similar to what we eat today. If you can find some yeast in the store, do an experiment at home to see how yeast works. Mix a packet of yeast with 2 tablespoons of sugar and 1 cup of warm water. Stir until the sugar and yeast dissolve, and then pour the mixtures into a clean plastic bottle (such as an empty water bottle). Attach a balloon to the top of the bottle (stretch out the balloon a few times first). Set the bottle aside and observe what happens. You should see the water eventually begin to bubble and the balloon to fill up with air.
* To further extend what you have learned about how yeast works, try making a loaf of yeast bread at home. Notice how once the bread is baked you can see many little bubbles in the loaf.
* God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, and we will see next week that this ability makes him valuable to Pharaoh. Have you ever wondered what your dreams mean? Some people think they have deep meanings, and others think dreams hold no meaning, but are simply the brain’s way of categorizing information learned throughout the day. Either way, you might notice that colors and images in dreams are often fuzzy and muted. Allow your children to use watercolors to paint a picture of a dream they once had. Encourage them to experiment with blending the colors together.
* Another “watercolor” option is to color with sharpie markers on a nonporous surface, such as a glass jar. Then dip a paintbrush into rubbing alcohol and touch it the colored parts of the jar. The ink will diffuse and blend like watercolors. The more alcohol you add, the more they will blend. When you are happy with your design, allow it to dry completely. Note, you must use permanent (non-washable) markers for this project.
* God was always with Joseph, even when he was sold into slavery and when he was thrown into prison. God is always watching over us too, and even when bad things happen, God is with us. As a reminder of God’s constant presence and love, make a God’s Eye craft. You can read about it and find instructions [HERE](https://craftsbyamanda.com/camp-crafts-gods-eye/). We have plenty of materials for this craft at the church, so please let me know if I can set some aside for you to pick up, or if you would like me to drop them off on your porch.