Dear Children's Church small group leaders,

Thank you for serving the children in Children's Church!!! You will join the children in Grace Park (the large area in the children's building) for worship and the Bible lesson. It will be your responsibility to shepherd them and, if needed, provide redirection during this time so that the leader leading worship or the Bible lesson can focus on leading and engaging the group. Below you will find a schedule for each age group and information about how to use the curriculum for small group time.

Schedule:

11:05ish	Kids dismissed from service	11:30	Small Group time in classrooms
11:05ish	Worship in Grace Park	12ish	Parent Pickup
11:10ish	Bible Lesson in Grace Park		

Using the Curriculum:
We will be utilizing the same curriculum (and hence, Bible passage) for Grace Groups and Children's Church. It's our prayer that this double exposure to the same Bible passage in different ways and by different teachers will allow children to know God's Word better; provide them with the time they need to process its meaning, significance and application for their lives through meaningful interaction and engaging activities; and leave them with a clear takeaway from Sunday morning's ministries.

You'll find the small group curriculum and resources for the Sunday that you're serving in this pdf. A copy of this curriculum and supplies that you request will be provided in your small group bin. This is located on the shelf above the microwave in the children's resource room and is labeled by small group.

NOTE: Please select the activities that you'll need for your group by the Wednesday before you serve. Please contact Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) no later than 9:00am on Wednesday before you serve to request activities and/or supplies that you'll utilize for your small group time. Please include which memory verse game and lesson review game you'd like to do. The supplies will then be placed in your basket for you to use the coming Sunday.

Elements that should be used in Children's Church Small Group Time:

- ***A hands-on activity or two (e.g., game, craft, coloring page) that are found in this document***: At your request, supplies for the hands-on activity/ies will be gathered for you and placed in the small group bin. You may need to do some minimal, final prep on Sunday before children's church begins
- ***Memory Verse Game****: Instead of using this curriculum's memory verse, please use the small group's Awana verse(s) for the coming week.
- ***Lesson Review Game****: Kids may have already did this in their Grace Group, but you're welcome to do this again in children's church. The reason is that you may choose a different game than they did during Grace Group and/or each child will most likely be answering different questions than they did in Grace Groups. In order to get to the other elements of small group time, you may want to shorten the game by asking fewer questions.
- ***Prayer***: Please pray with your class.

*Lesson Review Games and Memory Verse Games options are found in the appendix located both with the curriculum in the bin for your small group. It's also found at graceplacechurch.org/servekids. Simply click on the button "Memory Verse and Lesson Review Games." If you have another game in mind, you're welcome to use it instead. The Review Questions and hands-on activity/ies that you have selected will be ready for you to use with your small group are found before the appendix in this document.
**Awana verses are found in this pdf and are organized by grade & date.

IMPORTANT: Please prepare in advance!

- Please read the passage (found on the first page of the lesson) and Prepare to Share!
- For all items that you'll need (copies, coloring pages, game supplies, etc…), please inform Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) of supplies you need by 9 am of Wednesday prior to serving.

Thank you again for serving!

Should you need anything or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!
Jacob (405)973-6982
Alicia (808) 386-7067

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Genesis 41



Joseph Rises to Power

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams and becomes a ruler in Egypt.

Lesson Focus

God gave Pharaoh two disturbing dreams that his wise men couldn't interpret. The cupbearer remembered Joseph from the prison and recommended him to Pharaoh. Giving God the credit for his gift, Joseph explained that Pharaoh's dreams were a warning of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh honored Joseph and gave him a powerful position to prepare Egypt for the famine.

Key Passages

Genesis 41:1–4, 41:16, 41:41–43

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Joseph was imprisoned due to the lies of Potiphar's wife, but God blessed him in prison by giving him favor with the keeper of the prison. In his position of caring for other prisoners, Joseph met and interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker (Genesis 40). He correctly described what these servants' dreams meant, but nearly two years passed before the cupbearer remembered him and recommended him to Pharaoh as an interpreter of dreams. After giving God the credit and the glory (Genesis 41:16), Joseph was able to explain Pharaoh's dreams, declaring that seven years of plenty would be followed by sezven years of famine in the land. Impressed by Joseph's interpretation and advice, Pharaoh appointed him over all the land of Egypt (Genesis 41:41). Pharaoh gave Joseph authority with his signet ring and honored him with new clothing, a gold chain, and the use of his second chariot. Pharaoh also gave him a wife, Asenath, who came from a noble family.

Joseph was 30 years old when he became a ruler in Egypt (Genesis 41:46), and he immediately set to work preparing for the famine. During the seven good years, he collected grain and stored it in cities all over Egypt. His wife bore two sons: Manasseh and Ephraim. Joseph gave them Hebrew names that showed his gratefulness to God. His new position and family were blessings that helped him forget his previous betrayals and sorrow (Genesis 41:51–52).

The blessing of God was on Egypt on account of Joseph, which is a fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham and his descendants that he would "bless those who bless you" (Genesis 12:3). God's supernatural blessing followed Joseph at every step during his time in Egypt. God blessed Potiphar for Joseph's sake. The more that Potiphar entrusted to Joseph, the more God blessed him (Genesis 39:5). Later, the Lord also blessed Joseph's work in the prison (Genesis 39:23). Finally, God blessed Pharaoh by sending him Joseph to prepare for the famine. Pharaoh honored Joseph by giving him power and authority in Egypt, and God blessed Pharaoh during the seven years of plenty to prepare for the famine. In addition, Egypt also benefited from the money and land acquired as payment for their grain.

When the famine hit, it affected not only Egypt but also the surrounding lands, including Canaan (Genesis 41:57). People came from everywhere to buy grain from Egypt. It was the only nation with food during the famine: "There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread" (Genesis 41:54). Without God's sovereign intervention, many people would have perished during the shortage of food.

Historical/Apologetics Background

Many have asked if there is any historical evidence for these seven years of famine. While there is no direct evidence for it, there are several events that may refer to it.

In the cliffs of Beni Hassan, about 230 miles south of Cairo, tombs have been found from the Egyptian 12th Dynasty—about the same time Joseph was in Egypt and Pharaoh had set him over the land (Genesis 41:44). One of the tombs belonged to Ameni, a provincial governor possibly during the time of Sesostris I. On the wall of his tomb he wrote,

> No child of the poor did I afflict; no widow did I oppress; no landowner did I displace; no herdsmen did I drive away; from no small farmer did I take away his men for my works. No one was unhappy in my days, not even in the years of famine. For I had tilled all the fields of the nome of Mah, up to its southern and northern frontiers. Thus I prolonged the life of its inhabitants and preserved the food which it produced. No hungry man was in it. I distributed equally to the widow as to the married woman. I did not prefer the great to the humble in all that I gave away.

The famine mentioned here meets the criteria of Joseph's famine in four major aspects:

- The approximate date of the famine recorded in the tomb corresponds with the time of Joseph's service in Egypt.
- The famine lasted several years.

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- Preparations were made in advance to meet the needs of this disaster by gathering food.
- The food was distributed during the years of famine.

Also, there is a canal that runs from the Nile River to bring water into the Faiyyum Oasis. It is known as "Joseph's Canal" and was dug during the 12th Dynasty, possibly at Joseph's orders in preparation for the expected famine.

More details on Joseph's position are given in Genesis 45:8, in which Joseph identifies himself as "a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt." These three titles provide insight into Joseph's roles as a leader. First, "lord of all Pharaoh's house" was a title for chief steward of the king. The chief steward oversaw the king's agricultural holdings, including the royal granaries. God prepared Joseph for this role when he made Joseph the overseer of Potiphar's household. Second, the title of "father to Pharaoh" was used by Egyptians for officials who provided long-term service or who performed a special favor for the king. By interpreting Pharaoh's dream and recommending a plan for the famine, Joseph performed a special favor for the king. The third title of "ruler over all the land of Egypt" could refer to the position of vizier, or prime minister. The vizier was a record-keeper, supervisor, agricultural overseer, and foreign ambassador. The positions of vizier and chief steward were important government positions, but the names of men who held these positions during this time period have not been discovered. By the time of the Middle Kingdom, there were men who held both positions, so Joseph may have been one of the first to do this.[1]

1. See biblearchaeology.org/post/2010/04/05/Joseph-in-Egypt-Part-V.aspx.

Memory Verses For Children's Church (Oct 2026 - Dec 2026)
*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade
Oct 18	Jeremiah 10:10 **The LORD is the true God**; He is the living God and the everlasting King. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Psalm 118:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good…	Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?	John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Jesus Christ] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
Oct 25	Psalm 31:14 **But I trust in You, O LORD**; I say, "You are my God. *(Short version is in bold.)*	1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.	Proverbs 20:11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Nov 1	Matthew 4:10 **Worship the Lord your God** and Him only shall you serve. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.	Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Nov 8	John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,** and they follow Me. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:31 And God everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good…	Psalm 23:4-5 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.	Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
Nov 15	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.	Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Nov 22	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Nov 29	Isaiah 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned — every one — to his own way. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Dec 6	Psalm 23:4 … **I will fear no evil, for You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."	1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

	(Short version is in bold.)			
Dec 13	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Dec 20	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Review Questions

K–1st Review Questions

1. Who was Pharaoh? *The king. King of Egypt.*
2. What kinds of cows did Pharaoh see in his dream? *Fat cows and skinny cows.*
3. What did the skinny cows do? *Ate the fat cows.*
4. What kind of grain (or corn) did Pharaoh dream about? *Good, healthy grain and yucky, skinny grain.*
5. Who remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him? *The cupbearer.*
6. Who did Joseph say was the one that helped him explain the dreams? *God.*
7. What is a famine? *A time when there's not enough food for everyone.*
8. The dreams meant that there would be lots of food for seven years, and then what would happen? *The famine would come.*
9. Who gave Pharaoh a smart plan to get ready for the famine? *Joseph.*
10. What did Pharaoh do for Joseph? *Made him a ruler over Egypt.*
11. What was one of the gifts Pharaoh gave to Joseph? *Allow several students to answer. A ring, a gold chain, fine clothes, a chariot.*
12. What did Joseph do to get ready for the famine while the food was growing well? *Stored the grain.*
13. When the famine came and people got hungry, what did Joseph do? *Sold grain to the people.*
14. Who was in control of all that Joseph went through? *God.*
15. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. Who was Pharaoh? *The king. King of Egypt.*
2. What kinds of cows did Pharaoh see in his dream? *Fat cows and skinny cows.*
3. What did the skinny cows do? *Ate the fat cows.*
4. What kind of grain (or corn) did Pharaoh dream about? *Good, healthy grain and yucky, skinny grain.*
5. Who did Joseph say was the one that helped him explain the dreams? *God.*
6. What bad thing was going to happen? *A famine would come.*
7. A famine is a time when there is not enough of what for everyone? *Food.*
8. What did Pharaoh do for Joseph? *Made him a ruler over Egypt.*
9. What was one of the gifts Pharaoh gave to Joseph? *Allow several students to answer. A ring, a gold chain, beautiful clothes, a chariot.*
10. What did Joseph do to get ready for the famine? *Stored grain.*
11. When the famine came and people got hungry, what did Joseph do? *Sold grain to the people.*
12. Who was in control of all that Joseph went through? *God.*
13. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

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Egyptian Collar

Materials



- ☐ Labels (following page)
- ☐ Paper plates
- ☐ Bowl or jar about 4–6 inches in diameter for tracing a circle
- ☐ Glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Decorations: beads, stickers, dry pasta, glitter, jewels, ribbon, etc.

Instructions

Print and cut out one label for each student. Use the bowl or jar (4–6 inches across) to draw a circle on the back of each paper plate about 1 inch from the edge. Cut one slit from the edge of the plate to the circle and cut the circle out. Leave the edge to go around the student's neck.

Give one cut plate and one label to each student. Have the students color the label then glue it on their plate near the bottom. Help students glue and add decorations to make a fancy collar.

After glue is dry, open the cut edge and wrap it around the student's neck to wear.

Suggested Discussion

Joseph was a slave and a prisoner. But God put him in the right place at the right time to help Pharaoh understand his dreams. And Pharaoh made Joseph a ruler of Egypt!

We often see pictures of Egyptian rulers wearing fancy jewelry, crowns, and collars. You can take your Egyptian collar home and wear it for fun. When you do, think about Joseph. He didn't understand why God let him stay there in the prison, but God had a plan all along. He made sure Joseph was right where he needed to be so he could explain Pharaoh's dreams, become a ruler, and save the lives of many people when the famine came.

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God was with Joseph.

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