

Aug 30, 2026

Preschool Only

Joseph Understands Dreams

Genesis

Story: Read the story ahead of time. Practice it. For the younger grades, feel free to summarize, if needed. It's okay to reference the story as you are telling it, but the goal is to know the story well enough that you don't have to read it word for word. :) And, we encourage you to have your Bible open during the telling of the story, so the kids know where this story came from.

★ Introduction & Story:

Today's lesson is on Joseph. Joseph was in Abraham's family and God promised to love Abraham's family! Well, bad things happened to Joseph and yet God still loved and took care of him. Even more than this - God used Joseph to help make His plan of a Savior come true!!

After Joseph was sold into slavery, he was bought by a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was an officer of Pharaoh (the king) and the captain of the guards. Joseph served in Potiphar's house and became very successful. Potiphar trusted him to take care of a lot of things.

One day, Potiphar's wife accused Joseph of something he did not do, and he was thrown into prison.

While he was in prison, it became known that Joseph could understand dreams. This was something that he had been able to do since he was a boy. Either he would have a dream or someone else would tell him their dream and God would help him understand what the dream meant.

One night, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing beside the Nile, when seven healthy-looking, well-fed cows came up from the Nile and began to graze among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, sickly and thin, came up from the Nile and stood beside those cows along the bank of the Nile. The sickly, thin cows ate the healthy, well-fed cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

He fell back to sleep and dreamed a second time: Seven heads of grain, plump and good, came up on one stalk. After them, seven heads of grain, thin and scorched by

the wind, sprouted up. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven plump, full ones. Then Pharaoh woke up.

When morning came, he was troubled, so he summoned all the wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

Someone who had been in prison with Joseph remembered that he could understand dreams. Joseph had now been in prison for several years.

So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph from prison. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it."

"I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "But God will help me."

So, Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams. Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams mean the same thing. God has showed you what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years. The seven thin, sickly cows are seven years, and the seven worthless heads of grain are seven years.

Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt. The crops will grow well and there will be a lot of grain. After them, seven years of famine will take place, and all the abundance in the land of Egypt will be forgotten.

Joseph suggested that Pharaoh choose overseers over the land and take part of the harvest of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance and save it for the years of famine. Then the country would not be without grain during the famine.

The idea pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as wise as you are. You will be over my house, and all my people will obey your commands. Only I, as king, will be greater than you."

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan:**

Joseph was in Egypt for a reason, even though he did not understand it. God placed him there to save the Egyptians (and other nations, like Israel) from the famine. Without Joseph, who was given wisdom from God, many people in Abraham's family would have starved.

Ultimately, God's plan for us was to save us from our sins. God sent Jesus for just that reason. Jesus was in Abraham's family too!

Follow Up: As a church, we are encouraging disciple makers to practice the REAP method as it is one useful tool in learning to read the Bible on your own. Retell, Examine, Application, Prayer. Now this may not be everyone's preference, but it is an easy and consistent way to teach children to pull the meaning out of a passage and not just read it or rely on others to teach them what it means. Trees & Mountains - this is a station.

★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.

★ **Examine:**

- Comprehension Questions:
 - Have you ever been blamed for something you did not do?
 - What do you think Joseph was thinking while he was in prison? (It was a long time. Maybe he was wondering what God was doing.)
 - Why do you think Joseph was so wise?
- Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
 - God loved Joseph. God used Joseph to show how good He is.
- Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
 - Humans sometimes do bad things to each other. Humans can do good things for God.

★ **Application:** Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"

- God is asking us to love Him and use our gifts for Him.

★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse: Have the kids use the Bible. They should either share or each have one. If kids have their own Bibles, we can encourage them to use it, but sometimes you may just need to use the class set. Trees & Mountains - this is one station.

★ **Verse:** "I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me." --
Philippians 4:13

Memory Verse Practice:

Verse Look Up: Explain the address of the verse (Book Chapter:Verse). Explain whether it's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Read and explain the verse.

- Rainbow Tip: Not necessary until we split classrooms.
- Fireweed Tip: Put Post-It notes on the book of the Bible for the memory verse. Then have them find the chapter and verse.

Practice the Verse:

- Rainbow: Not necessary :)
- Fireweed: Have the kids read it with you several times. Since they are learning to read, group practice is the focus.
- Trees & Mountains: Kids should be learning the verse and saying it on their own. We will provide activities - pick one to have the kids practice. We will PM provide: fill-in-the-blank verses, phrases for the kids to put in order, lines for the kids to write the verse out, and a worksheet for the kids to say the verse based on just the first letter of each word in the verse.

Books of the Bible:

- ★ If there is time or if kids have mastered the verse, have the kids practice the Books of the Bible. When we are doing Old Testament stories, have them practice the Old Testament; when in the New, practice the New Testament. We will have some activities for them to practice with.
 - Trees/Mountains currently have pencil cases with sets of cards/bookmarks in them.

Sticky Activities: No need to do all of these! Pick which ones work best for your teaching style and time frame! For the Trees and Mountains - there is enough time for two of the stations to do activities. Activity and Coloring pages can be found [here](#):

★ Sensory:

Category	Activity 1	Activity 2
Experiential	Dream Interpretation Game: Give children simple picture cards showing things like cows, stars, wheat, or cups. Let them guess what the pictures might represent, then explain how Joseph asked God for understanding.	Joseph's Journey: Have children act out Joseph's journey from prison to standing before Pharaoh. Pause at each scene and talk about how God was with Joseph.
Visual	Joseph's Dream Drawings: Illustrate the dreams of the sheaves and the sun, moon, and stars.	Pharaoh's Dream Pictures: Show pictures of the 7 healthy cows, 7 thin cows, 7 healthy heads of grain, and 7 thin heads of grain.
Touch	Grain Bin: Put dry wheat, rice, or oats in a sensory bin and let children scoop and measure it.	
Movement	7 Cows / 7 Cows Game: Children walk around like healthy cows, then become "thin cows" when you call out "famine!"	Gather & Store : Scatter beanbags or toy food around the room. Children race to gather and "store" the food in baskets during the seven years of plenty.
Sound	Dream Sounds: Make cow sounds and rustling grain sounds while retelling Pharaoh's dream.	Joseph Says: Play a "Simon Says" style game where Joseph gives instructions: "Joseph says gather the grain!" "Joseph says store the food!"
Crafts	Joseph's Dream Craft: Color, cut, and glue sleeping Joseph.	Dream Crown: Children make a Pharaoh crown decorated with cows, grain, and stars.

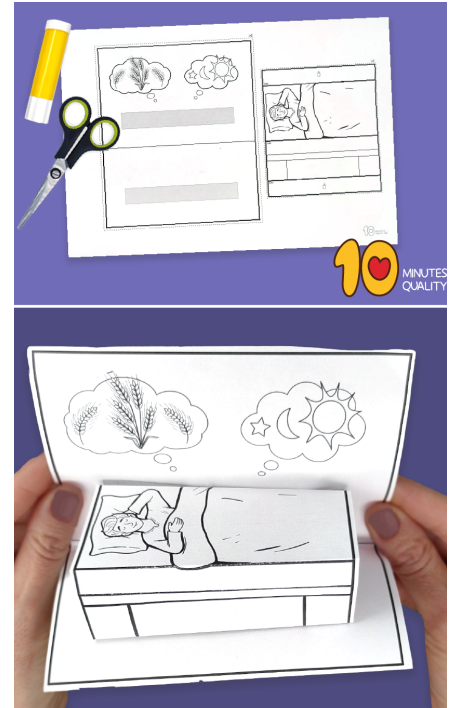
Taste	Seven Snack Bowls: Have 7 small bowls with a snack. Children count the seven bowls, then remove them one at a time to represent the years of plenty and famine.	
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Send Home Page: No send home page other than the Verse Activity Coloring page.

August 30, 2026 Lesson Activities

Joseph's Dreams Craft

Color, cut, and glue sleeping Joseph.

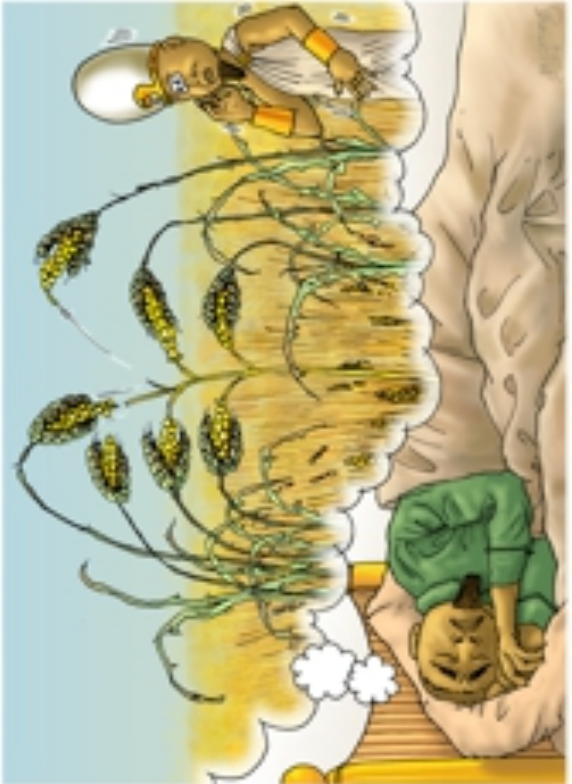


Pharaoh's Dream Pictures:

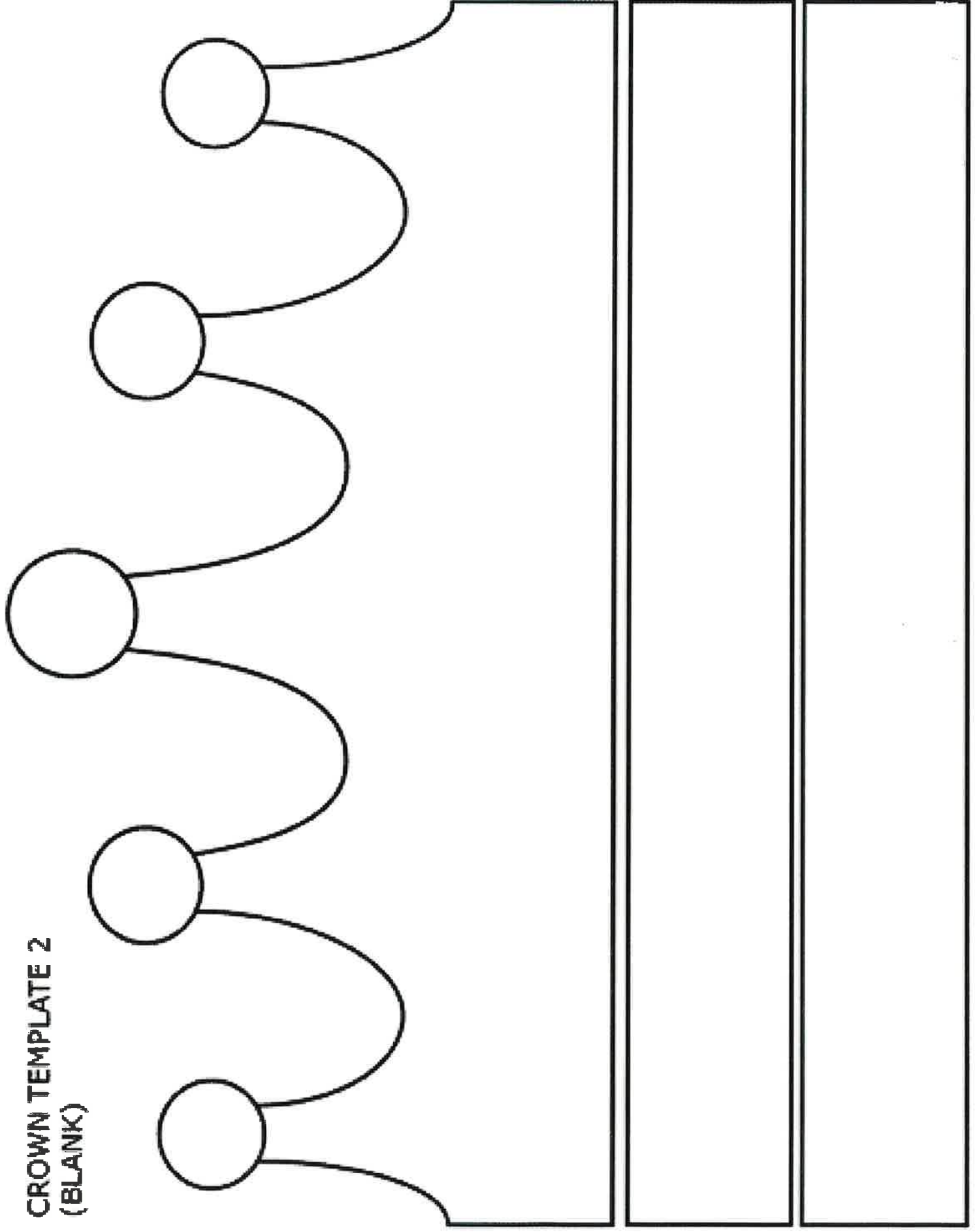
During the lesson, show the pictures of Pharaoh's dreams and discuss the importance of each dream. Pictures on next page.

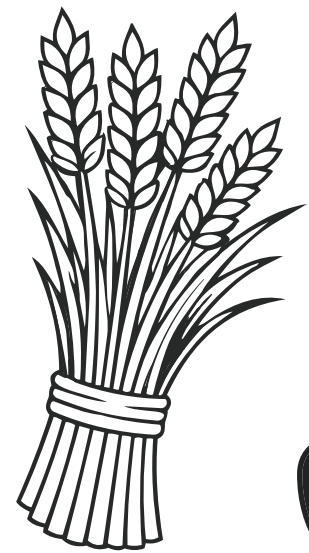
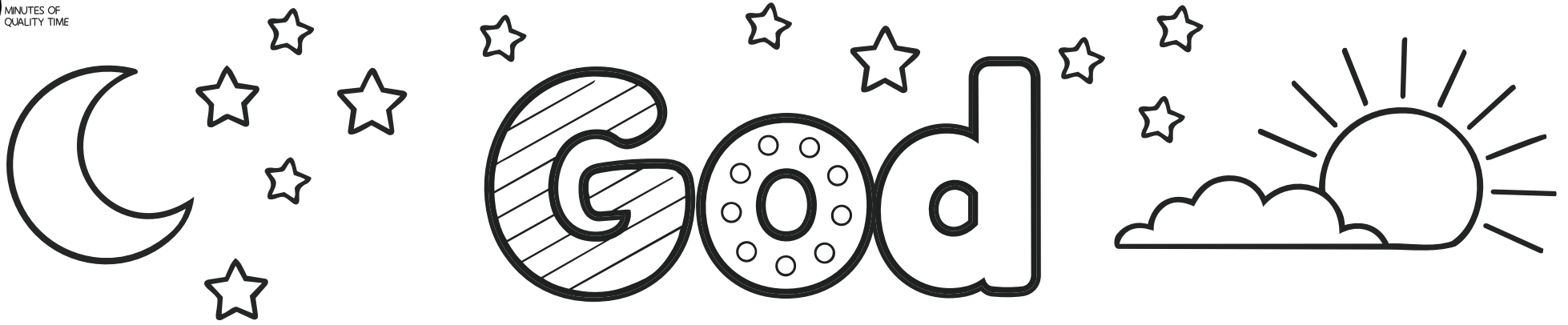
Dream Crown:

Decorate and cut included crown. Have children draw and color cows, grain, and stars to represent the dreams Joseph helped people understand.



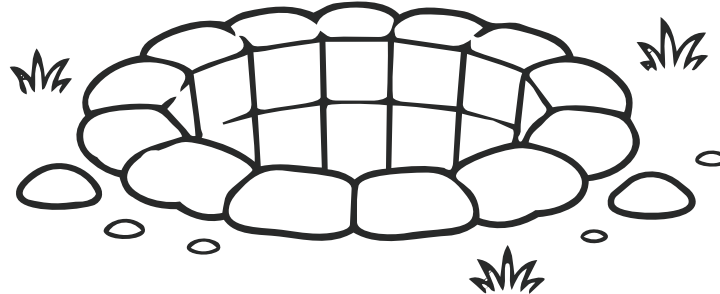
**CROWN TEMPLATE 2
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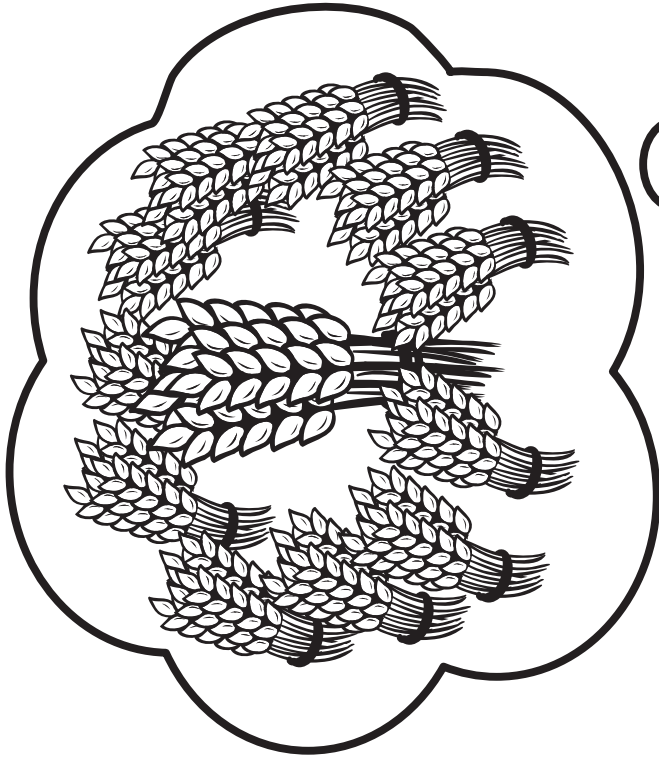
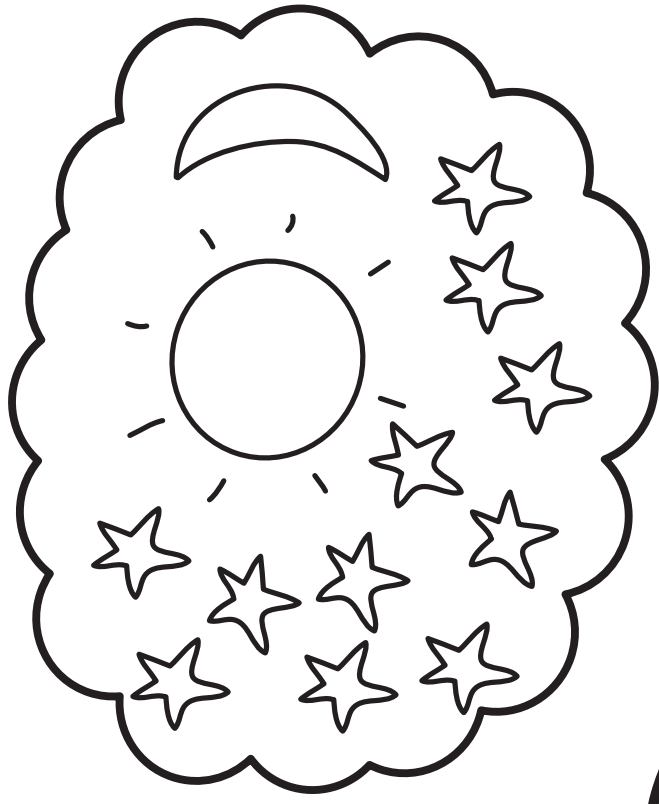


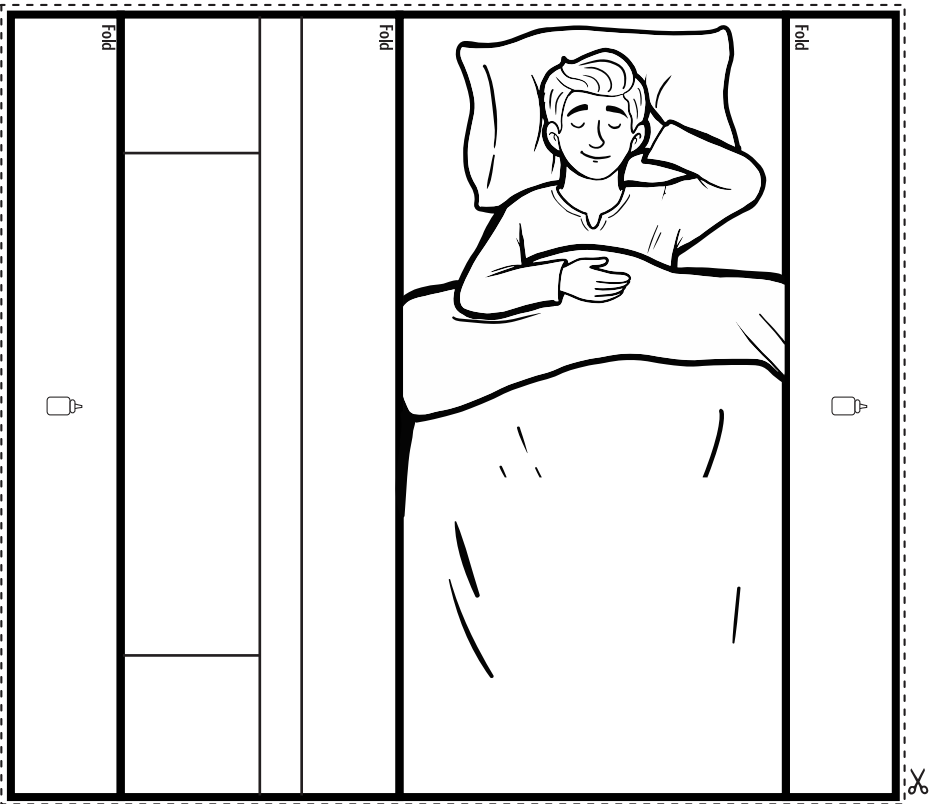
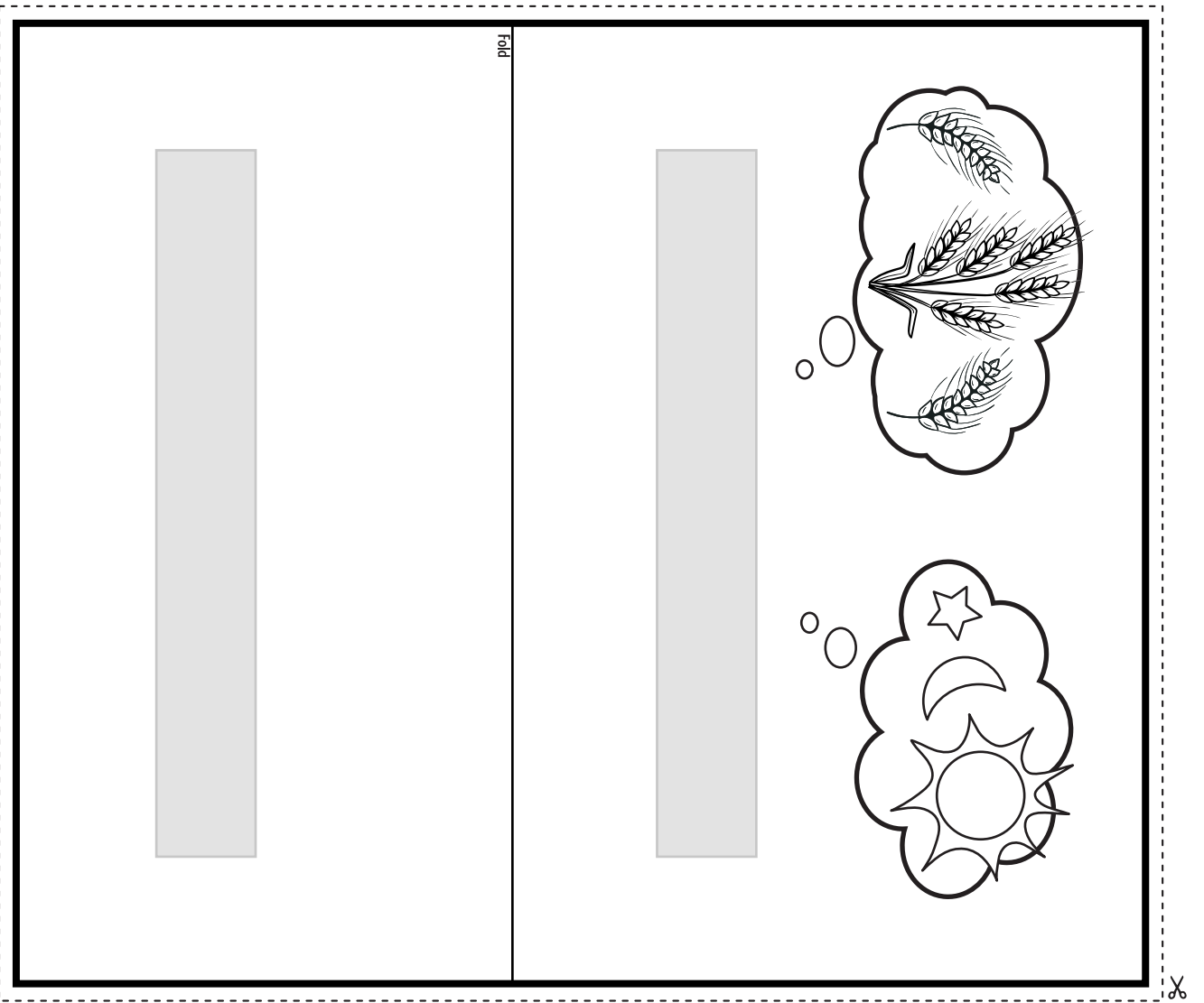


God Was with Joseph

Genesis 39:2







Memory Verse:

August 30, 2026

“I am able to do all things
through him who
strengthens me.”
-- Philippians 4:13

Fill in the Blanks

I am ____ to do ____ things
through ____ who
_____ me.
-- Philippians 4:13

Draw or write how God gives you
strength.



Fill in the Blanks

I am ____ to do ____ things
through ____ who
_____ me.
-- Philippians 4:13

Draw or write how God gives you
strength.

