

Lesson 33: Pharaoh Puts Joseph in Charge
[Genesis 39:20–41:49](#)

Youtube Link: https://youtu.be/NY_BhkbOunk

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/CXo0XiRdrYw>

Worship Theme: God wants us to serve Him.

Memory Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. It's a Great Day <https://youtu.be/Z91SULEHfho>
2. Give Praise to Jesus <https://youtu.be/PtAbR7-xroM>
3. If the Lord Is with Us https://youtu.be/2CzIW4_ueg0

Prayer

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: Serving God with all of our hearts.

Materials Needed: Print and cut the hearts in half (see below to print)

1. When we serve God, God wants us to serve Him with all of our heart.
2. Cut out the hearts (hearts provided below) and cut them in half.
3. Give each child half a heart and when the music starts, they have to find the other half of the heart that matches theirs.
4. When they find their partner, they can sit down.
5. Does God want us to be halfhearted (hold up half of a paper heart) or wholehearted? Hold up the other half, and put the two together.
6. God is pleased when we do things to serve him. And God is most pleased when we serve him lovingly with our whole hearts.
7. Let's learn about a man in the Bible who served God with his whole heart.



Introduction:

Our Bible story today tells us how Joseph served and worshipped God wherever he was. He served God with his whole heart because he knew God was worthy of his service. Joseph had been sold into slavery in Egypt by brothers who hated him. At one point Joseph became a slave to a top government official in Egypt. Joseph did his tasks honestly and wholeheartedly. He earned the respect of his boss, who trusted him with everything he owned. Then somebody lied about Joseph, and Joseph was thrown in jail even though he hadn't done anything wrong. What do you think will happen to him now?

Bible Story:

In jail, Joseph remembered that God was with him. He trusted God and did what was right no matter how he was treated. Joseph even helped the jailer! Joseph knew that God deserved his wholehearted service no matter what happened, so he chose to do the right thing. One day Joseph was called to the palace to help figure out the meaning of one of Pharaoh's dreams. With God's help, Joseph was able to help Pharaoh

interpret his dreams which prophesied that there will be 7 years of abundance and 7 years of famine. Joseph served God faithfully, and others saw that God was with Joseph. Pharaoh was so happy with him, he invited Joseph to live in the palace. Joseph wasn't free, but at least he didn't have to stay in jail. Before long, Pharaoh made Joseph his second in command. That meant that Joseph had more responsibility than anyone in Egypt except the Pharaoh himself!

The amazing thing about Joseph was that he served God whether he was mistreated or treated well. He did exactly what our memory verse for today says: Whatever he did, he did it with his whole heart for the Lord. Joseph wasn't just trying to please a jailer, a boss, or a king. He was serving God with all of his heart. And the God who loved Joseph's service, blessed Joseph in return.

Just like Joseph, we need to serve God with all of our heart!

Questions to discuss:

1. Why did Joseph go to jail? (Someone lied about him)
2. How did Joseph serve God when he was in jail? (With all his heart)
3. How did Joseph help the Pharaoh? (Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream)
4. What was Pharaoh's dream about? (Seven skinny cows ate seven fat cows; seven thin grains swallowed up the healthy grains.)
5. Do you think you can serve God with all of your heart even when some bad things happen to you? (Yes, we should always trust God)

Memory Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

Craft:

Print the award ribbon and have the students cut it out for themselves and color it. Have the children write their name in the circle and "all of my heart" on one ribbon and "serve God" on the other ribbon.



Song: Select songs from the list above.

Prayer

Devotion for Teachers (Please read and pray before the class)

As we love and serve God, we grow in the strength and become more like Christ. God uses growing Christians to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere. Joseph made a difference in the midst of some strange and difficult circumstances. Are you aware of the difference you are making in the lives of your students? Take a quiet moment to pray this prayer: "Jesus, help me understand the significance of leading these students. Thank you for using me—to help them grow closer to you."



