



Joseph in Prison

Genesis 39: 1-2, 20-23; 40: 5-14

Level C

Ages 11-14

Life Focus: The Lord is with me no matter what is happening in my life.

Story Summary: Joseph’s brothers put him in a pit and later he was sold to passing traders. He was taken to Egypt where he was sold as a slave. Proving trustworthy, he was soon put in charge of his master Potiphar’s household. One day Potiphar’s wife falsely accused him of improper behavior and he was thrown in prison. The prison keeper came to trust him and put him in sole charge of the other prisoners. Pharaoh’s butler and baker were imprisoned and, while under Joseph’s care, they told him their dreams. Joseph explained the dreams, saying that the Lord revealed their meaning. The butler would serve Pharaoh again, but the baker would die. The dreams came true as Joseph predicted.

| <div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">Lesson 2</h2> </div> | | <i>Materials Needed</i> | |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | <i>Supplied with Lesson</i> | <i>Additional Materials</i> |
| 1. Getting Started (2-3 min) | Welcome Warm-up Activity | Welcome Warm-up Activity directions p. 12 | |
| 2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min) | Read the Word Talk About It story discussion | Talk About It discussion guide p. 12 | Bible or copy of Genesis 39:1-2, 20-23; Genesis 40:5-14 |
| 3. Engage with the Word choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min) | Service Project decorate pillowcases with quotations from the Word and give to people in need of comfort Game learn the spiritual meaning of the story | Prayer Pillowcase directions p. 13 <i>Healing Quotations from the Word</i> p. 16 The Butler and Baker’s Dreams directions p. 14 <i>Teacher Answer Key</i> p. 17 <i>Word Cards & Picture Cards</i> pp. 18-27 | one or two pillowcases, fabric pens or permanent markers <i>optional:</i> fabric paints or special accent details for fabric decorating, Bibles color paper for printing <i>Correspondence Cards</i> , white paper for printing <i>Picture Cards</i> <i>optional:</i> stiff paper |
| 4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min) | Take the Message Home a door hanger with a summary of the lesson and activities | Joseph in Prison Door Hanger p. 28 | color version available at www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs |

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

False Accusations

Start a short discussion with the following question: If you were falsely accused of a crime and put in prison what would you do?

2. Focus on the Word

Read Genesis 39:1-5, 7-16, 20-23; 40:5-23

Talk About It

Joseph was taken to Egypt where he was sold as a slave. Wherever he went, and no matter what happened, he trusted that the Lord was with him.

Joseph's master, Potiphar, grew to trust him and put him in charge of all of his household.

Who falsely accused Joseph of committing a crime? Potiphar's wife. She caught hold of Joseph's clothing and, when he fled leaving the clothing, she used it as evidence against him.

How did Joseph react to being put in prison? He continued to follow the Lord and, as a result, everything he did prospered.

Pharaoh, the ruler (king) of Egypt put two servants—his butler and baker—in prison. What were their jobs? The butler served drink (wine) at mealtimes. The baker made bread for Pharaoh's household.

Which servant *volunteered* to tell Joseph his dream? The butler.

The baker told his dream after hearing the good interpretation of the butler's dream. Do you think he would have told his dream if the butler's dream had had a bad interpretation?

What favor did Joseph ask the butler to do? Remember him to Pharaoh so he would be let out of prison.

The butler forgot to mention Joseph and it appeared as if Joseph was completely forgotten in prison. In what kinds of situations might a person feel that the Lord or others had forgotten him or her?

How could you help someone overcome this feeling?

If we want to serve the Lord in our hearts, He can more easily turn everything we do into a way of preparing us to serve Him, both on earth and later in heaven. No matter what experiences we have, the Lord is with us, bending our lives towards Himself and our greatest happiness.

3. Engage with the Word

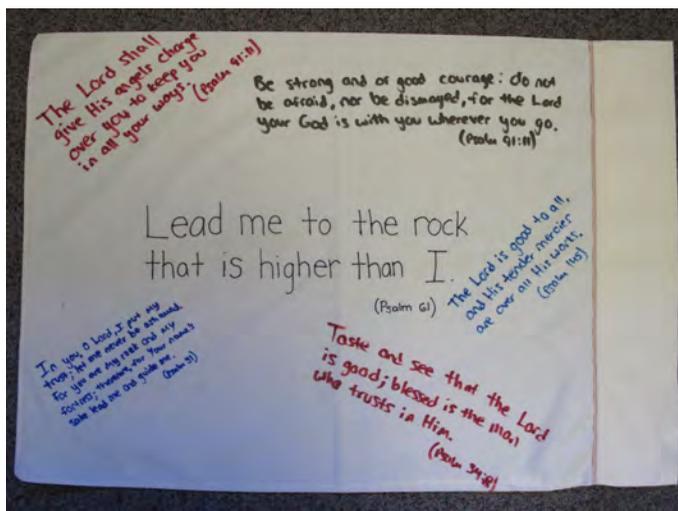
Choose one or two activities



Prayer Pillowcase

Reach out to someone who is imprisoned by sickness or other difficult circumstances in their life. Decorate a pillowcase with words of comfort from the Word and give it to someone who is going through a hard time. If you cannot think of someone to give it to at the moment, perhaps your pastor or care committee could give it out later, or donate it to a charity.

1. Have you ever been locked up alone? What would it be like to be in prison? What resources do prisoners have? What would you not have and what would you miss?
2. Sometimes people are confined in other ways—e.g. by a physical disability, a mental disability, or an illness. Compare experiences like this with being in an actual prison.
3. Another form of imprisonment is *spiritual* imprisonment. What might spiritual imprisonment look like or feel like? (When we break spiritual laws our minds become imprisoned by false ideas. Hell traps and imprisons us when we lash out in anger or participate in other forms of selfish behavior.)
4. Jesus said “I was in prison and you came to Me” (Matthew 25). One of the ways we can reach out to people who are going through hard times is by sharing the Lord’s Word with them. His words can bring a person freedom from spiritual “imprisonment”.
5. Today we will create *Prayer Pillowcases* to give to people who are going through a difficult time—people who are in prison in some way. We will cover the pillowcases with healing messages from the Word.
6. Hand out *Healing Quotations from the Word*. Invite students to choose a quote or two to write on the pillowcase. *Option*: Students may choose their own quotations from the Word.
7. Have students copy their quotations onto the pillowcase.
8. The person receiving this pillowcase will receive the Lord’s healing messages to remind him or her that the Lord is present and cares for him or her at every moment.



Activity Hints!

Prevent the fabric pens from bleeding through to the back side of the pillowcase by putting a plastic bag, newspaper or piece of cardboard inside.

Choose pillowcases in a color or design that could suit a specific person, e.g. child, woman, man, anyone.

Materials

Healing Quotations from the Word p. 16, one or two pillowcases, fabric pens or permanent markers

optional: copies of the Bible for students to choose their own quotations, fabric paints or special accent details for fabric decorating

Large Group?

Create more pillowcases. Give one to each member of a family in need, or give to the pastor to hand out later.

Choice

The Butler and Baker's Dreams

A Correspondence Game, based on a game by Wendy Soneson

Stories in the Word reflect spiritual aspects of our lives. The relationship between the objects and people in the stories and the spiritual reality is called a “correspondence”. This game teaches some correspondences in the stories of Joseph’s family, his dreams and the dreams of the butler and baker.

Each *Picture Cards* page contains four pictures, all with the same correspondence to one of the words on the *Word Cards* pages. To play you will need 4 copies of each *Word Cards* page and 1 copy of each *Picture Cards* page.

Players match picture cards with corresponding word cards. The winner may be the player with the most pairs, but the real object is non-competitive—to learn the correspondences.

1. Introduce students to the objects on the cards and to their correspondences. Use the *Teacher Answer Key* as an overview guide.
2. Practice matching colored word cards with picture cards as a group until the students feel confident about matching correspondences correctly.
3. Place all 64 cards face down on table or floor.
4. The first player turns over 2 cards: one colored and one white. If these cards correspond to one another (e.g. Love and sun), the player keeps the pair and takes another turn. If the cards do not match, they are put back in their original positions.
5. The next player similarly turns over two cards, trying to find a match. All players should watch closely so that they can remember where the cards are placed.
6. Play until all cards are paired.

Variation

1. Divide the colored word cards evenly among the players. Players hold these cards so that others can’t see them.
2. Place the 32 picture cards face down on the table. Players take turns drawing cards from the table, showing these cards as they select them. Each time a match is found (e.g. Truth and wine), the player keeps the two cards, putting them to one side. If the drawn picture card does not match any word cards in the player’s hand, it is returned to the table face down. Players should watch carefully so they can remember where cards are placed.
3. The first player to match the colored cards in his or her hand wins.

4. Wrap It Up

Closing

Gather the students together. How might remembering that the Lord is always with you change your outlook if you are worried, alone or sick?

Hand each student a copy of the *Joseph in Prison Door Hanger* p. 28. Read the “God is with you” section at the top of the hanger with the students. Look at “Reach out to God.” Encourage the students to do one or more of the activities this week.

Note: a color version of the door hanger can be printed from www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs.

Materials

Teacher Answer Key p. 17, *Word Cards* pp. 18-19 (4 copies of each page), *Picture Cards* pp. 20-27 (1 copy of each page)

optional: print on thick paper

Preparation

print *Word Cards* on color paper, print *Picture Cards* on white paper, cut apart

New Church Concept

Correspondences

The New Church teaches that there is a direct relationship between the natural world and the world of the spirit—between people, places and things; the human spirit; and God Himself. The key to understanding these relationships is called the “Science of Correspondences”. Known by ancient people, this has been revealed anew in the Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church. This game introduces correspondences in the Joseph story.

Note the categories of correspondences as you cut out the cards. Some things, e.g. things related to bread are shown with a good correspondence and also a bad correspondence. Correspondences vary according to the way things are used. For more information, go to www.scienceofcorrespondences.com.



Healing Quotations from the Word

Prayer Pillowcase

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 139</p> | <p>The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 34:7</p> |
| <p>Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew 5</p> | <p>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Matthew 5</p> |
| <p>Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 61</p> | <p>The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145</p> |
| <p>Jesus healed those who had need of healing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Luke 9</p> | <p>The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 146</p> |
| <p>The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Numbers 6:24-26</p> | <p>Be strong and of good courage: do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Joshua 1:9</p> |
| <p>In you, O Lord, I put my trust....for you are my rock and my fortress.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 31</p> | <p>The Lord shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 91:11</p> |
| <p>Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 128:1,3</p> | <p>Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 34:8</p> |
| <p>The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145:8</p> | <p>The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 145: 9</p> |
| <p>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 23</p> | <p>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 23</p> |

The Butler and Baker's Dreams Game

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

| Truth | | Falsity | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Silver</p> <p>Joseph was sold for twenty shekels of silver. Genesis 37:28</p> <p>Silver corresponds to truth. <i>Arcana Coelestia 1551</i></p> | <p>Wine</p> <p>The chief butler served Pharaoh wine. Genesis 40:20</p> <p>Wine means the Lord's Divine truth from His Divine good. <i>New Jerusalem and Heavenly Doctrine 219</i></p> | <p>Birds</p> <p>The baker dreamed birds ate from the baskets on his head. Genesis 40:17</p> <p>Birds mean things of the understanding, e.g. ideas, and so consequently truths or falsities. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5149</i></p> | <p>Darkness</p> <p>Joseph, the butler and the baker dreamed during the darkness of night. Genesis 37, 40</p> <p>Darkness corresponds to falsities. <i>Apocalypse Explained 546</i></p> |
| <p>Moon</p> <p>Joseph dreamed the sun, moon and stars bowed down to him. Genesis 37:9</p> <p>The moon corresponds to faith. <i>Apocalypse Explained 401</i></p> | <p>Water</p> <p>Joseph was put in a pit that had no water in it. Genesis 37:24</p> <p>Water in the Word corresponds to life-giving truth. <i>Arcana Coelestia 2702</i></p> | <p>Bound</p> <p>Joseph was imprisoned or bound. Genesis 39</p> <p>People who are bound mean those governed by falsities. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5038</i></p> | <p>Lies</p> <p>Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph. Genesis 39</p> <p>Lies falsify truth from evil intention. <i>Apocalypse Explained 734</i></p> |
| Useful Service | | Knowledge | |
| <p>Butler's Dream</p> <p>The butler dreamed about serving Pharaoh. Genesis 40</p> | <p>Baker's Dream</p> <p>The baker dreamed about serving Pharaoh. Genesis 40</p> | <p>Egypt</p> <p>Ishmaelites took Joseph to Egypt. Genesis 37:28</p> <p>Egypt means memory knowledges. <i>Arcana Coelestia 1462</i></p> | <p>Stars</p> <p>Joseph dreamed the sun, moon & 11 stars bowed down to him. Genesis 37:9</p> <p>Stars mean knowledges of good and truth. <i>Arcana Coelestia 6015</i></p> |
| <p>Joseph Serves Potiphar</p> <p>Joseph served Potiphar. Genesis 39:4</p> | <p>Joseph in Charge of Prison</p> <p>The prison keeper put Joseph in charge of the prisoners. Genesis 39:22</p> | <p>Pharaoh's Cup</p> <p>The butler dreamed he pressed grapes into Pharaoh's cup. Genesis 40</p> <p>A bowl or cup means knowledge. <i>Arcana Coelestia 9996</i></p> | <p>Joseph's Garment</p> <p>Joseph left his garment and fled. Genesis 39:12</p> <p>Garments mean outermost truth. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5008</i></p> |
| Love | | Temptation | |
| <p>Grapes</p> <p>The butler dreamed he pressed grapes into Pharaoh's cup. Genesis 40</p> <p>Grapes mean charity, which is the fruit of love. <i>Arcana Coelestia 1071</i></p> | <p>Wheat</p> <p>Joseph dreamed of binding sheaves [wheat]. Genesis 37:7</p> <p>Wheat means love and charity. <i>Arcana Coelestia 3941</i></p> | <p>Prison</p> <p>Joseph's master put him in prison. Genesis 39:20</p> <p>Being in prison means being subjected to temptations. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5037</i></p> | <p>40</p> <p>[Not in this story.]</p> <p>Forty days and nights means the duration of temptation. <i>Arcana Coelestia 730</i></p> |
| <p>Sun</p> <p>Joseph dreamed the sun, moon and 11 stars bowed down to him. Genesis 37:9</p> <p>The spiritual sun is an emanation of the Lord's divine love and wisdom. <i>Divine Love and Wisdom 290</i></p> | <p>Flocks</p> <p>Joseph's brothers fed their father's flocks in Shechem. Genesis 37:12</p> <p>Flocks are forms of love. <i>Arcana Coelestia 8937</i></p> | <p>Pit</p> <p>Joseph's brothers put him in a pit. Genesis 37:24</p> <p>A pit describes a state in which temptation takes place. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5246</i></p> | <p>Unclean</p> <p>Joseph was unclean in prison. He was shaved and washed before seeing Pharaoh. Genesis 40:14</p> <p>Temptations happen when we are in unclean states. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5246</i></p> |
| Lord | | Selfishness | |
| <p>Vine</p> <p>The butler dreamed of a vine growing, blossoming and bearing grapes. Genesis 40</p> <p>Jesus said "I am the true vine." John 15:5</p> | <p>Pharaoh</p> <p>Pharaoh was ruler of Egypt. Genesis 40</p> <p>Kings in the Word signify the Lord as to divine truth. <i>Apocalypse Explained 31</i></p> | <p>Bread</p> <p>A basket of baked goods was on the baker's head. Genesis 40:17</p> <p>Bread, in its opposite sense, is formed from the loves of self and the world. <i>Arcana Coelestia 7356</i></p> | <p>Baker</p> <p>The baker dreamed a dream. Genesis 40:16</p> <p>The baker represents selfish delights which must be rejected. <i>Arcana Coelestia 5157</i></p> |
| <p>Joseph</p> <p>Joseph represents the Lord. <i>Arcana Coelestia 4669</i></p> | <p>Father</p> <p>Joseph's father loved him. Genesis 37:3</p> <p>The Lord is our heavenly Father. <i>Conjugal Love 85</i></p> | <p>Potiphar's Wife</p> <p>Potiphar's wife spread lies about Joseph, falsifying the truth. Genesis 39:14-18; <i>Arcana Coelestia 5011</i></p> | <p>Anger</p> <p>Potiphar was angry with Joseph. Genesis 39:19</p> <p>Anger is antagonistic to the truth. <i>Arcana Coelestia 3614</i></p> |

Word Cards
Make 4 copies

LORD

LOVE

TRUTH

FALSITY

Word Cards
Make 4 copies

**USEFUL
SERVICE**

KNOWLEDGE

**SELFISHNESS
TEMPTATION**

Picture Cards—LORD

Make 1 copy



Joseph



Father



Pharaoh



Vine

Picture Cards—LOVE

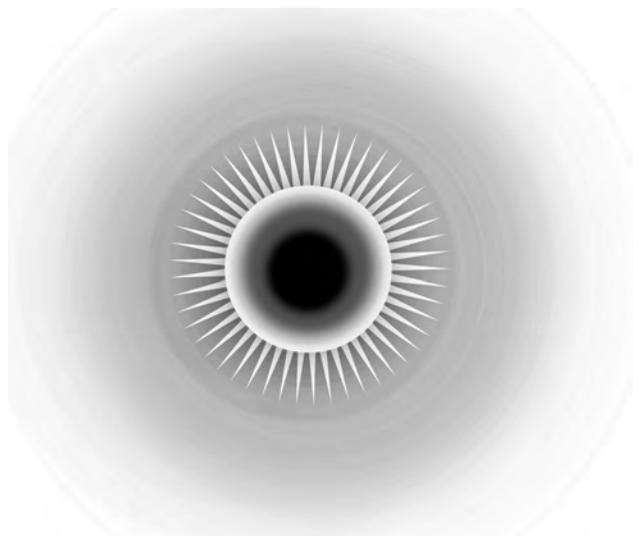
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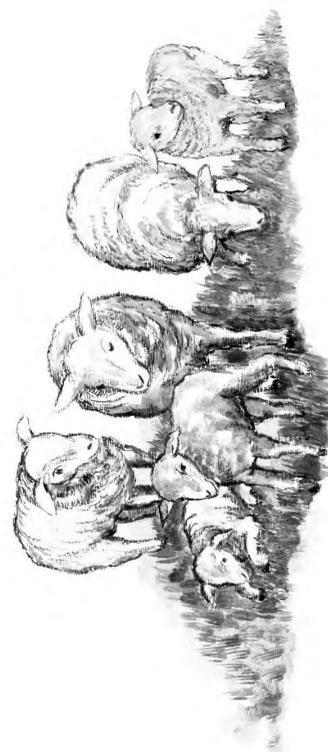
Grapes



wheat



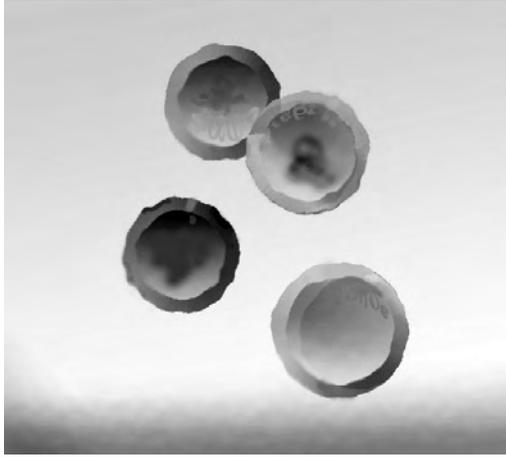
Sun



Flocks

Picture Cards—TRUTH

Make 1 copy



Silver



Wine



Moon



Water

Picture Cards— FALSITY

Make 1 copy



Birds



Lies



Bound



Darkness

Picture Cards—USEFUL SERVICE

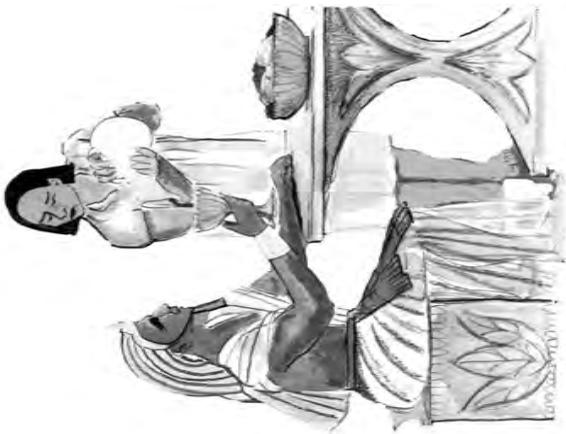
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**Joseph
Serves
Potiphar**



Baker



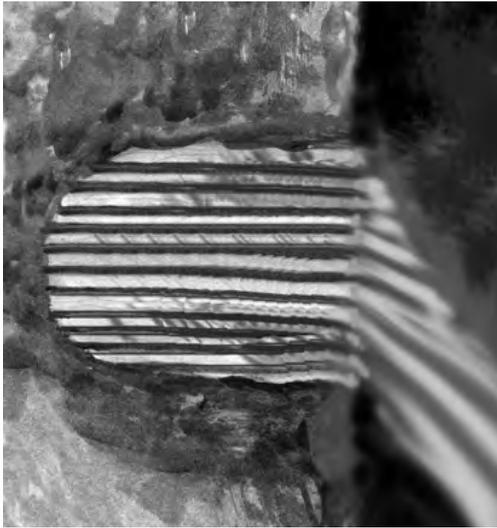
**Butler's
Dream**



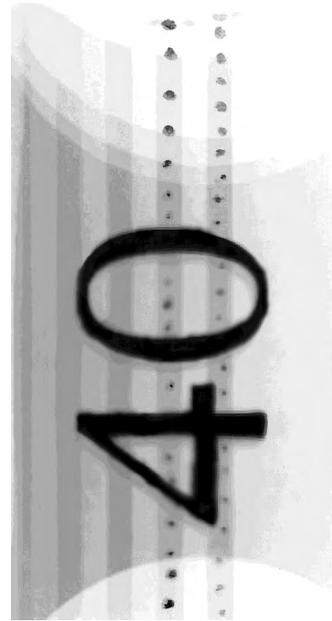
**Joseph in
Charge of
Prison**

Picture Cards—TEMPTATION

Make 1 copy



Prison



40



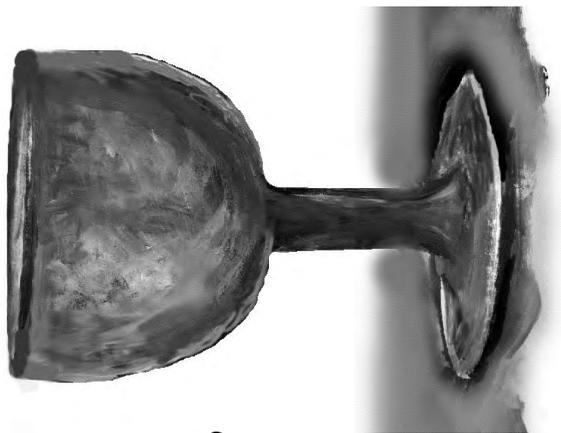
Pit



Unclean

Picture Cards—KNOWLEDGE

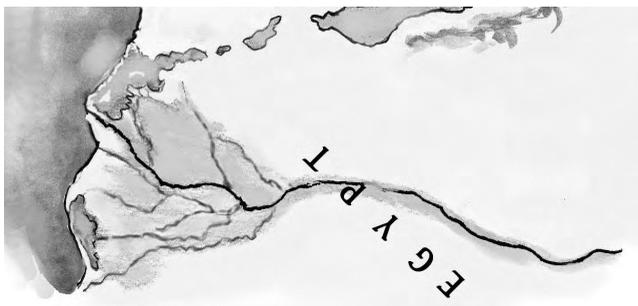
Make 1 copy



**Pharaoh's
Cup**



Stars



Egypt



Joseph's Garment

Picture Cards—SELFISHNESS

Make 1 copy

Bread



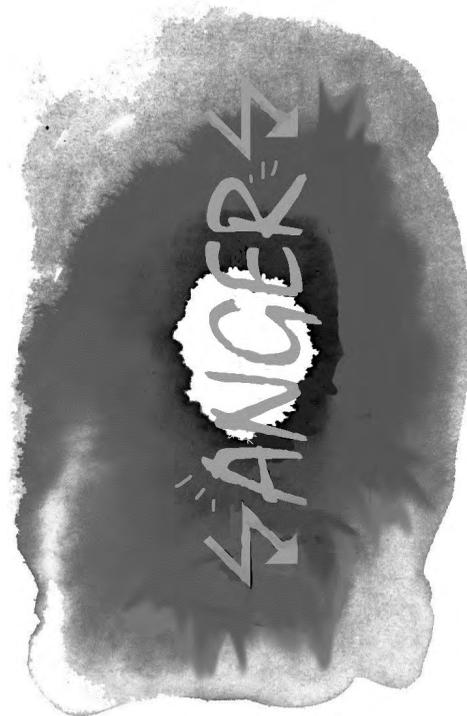
**Baker's
Dream**



Potiphar's Wife



Anger



But the Lord was with Joseph...

Joseph in Prison

Cut out the shaded doorhanger. Fold it in half and hang it over a door.

God is with you

"During our spiritual tests we are apparently left completely alone, although in fact we are not alone—at those times God is most intimately present...giving us support."

True Christianity 126

At times we all feel imprisoned, either by external circumstances or by our own thoughts and feelings. Yet the Lord is always present with each one of us.

Think of the sun. On stormy days or at night, we cannot see it. In winter, we do not feel its warmth. But we know that the sun does not ever really leave the earth. If it did, we would die. The Lord is the sun of our inner life.

Reach out to God

I feel trapped because...

Prayer is speaking with God. Tell the Lord about your troubles and ask for His help.

I need a way to deal with my problem...

The Word or Bible is the Lord's message to us. Read it, looking for comfort and answers.

I can see the Lord at work in...

Look for signs of the Lord's presence in your life—in a clear stream, a baby's laughter, a friend's kindness. Find a reflection of the Lord from which to draw strength and courage.

Be strong *AND* COURAGEOUS.

Do not be afraid;
do not be DISCOURAGED,
for the

Lord your

GOD
will be
with **YOU**

wherever

YOU
GO.

Joshua 1:7-9