

PHARAOH'S DREAM

Genesis 41

When the king's cupbearer left the prison, he forgot all about Joseph. Joseph, still a prisoner himself, continued to care for the prisoners in his charge, always doing his best. One day after Joseph had spent two more years in prison, Pharaoh awoke after having a very disturbing dream. He called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wisemen. After telling them his dream they were all perplexed, and none of them could even make up an explanation for the dream. For you see that is often what happened, because no man can know what a dream means. Only God knows those things.

When Pharaoh's chief butler, the cupbearer, heard of Pharaoh's dreams, he said to Pharaoh, "Today I remember my faults. When Pharaoh was angry with me and put me in the prison, both me and the chief baker, we both had dreams one night. There was in the same prison with us a young man, a Hebrew who was servant to the chief guard. We told him our dreams and he interpreted them for us correctly."

When Pharaoh heard this, he sent for Joseph. They quickly brought him out of the prison and he shaved and prepared to meet Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had these dreams and there is no one who can interpret them. I've heard that you can interpret dreams. Can you tell me what my dreams mean, for they are very upsetting to me?"

Joseph answered Pharaoh, "I do not have the ability to interpret dreams, but God will give you an answer so that you may be at peace."

Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. He said, "In my dream I stood at the river's edge. Out of the river came seven fat, healthy cows, they were feeding in a meadow. Then seven other cows came out of the river, but they were very thin and unhealthy cows. I have never seen such bad cows in all of Egypt. These awful cows ate up the good cows, but when they were done eating the good cows, they looked as bad as before. After this I awoke from my dream.

Again I had a dream. Seven good ears of corn came up on one stalk. Then seven withered and thin ears grew up after them. These poor ears devoured the good ears, but when they had eaten the good ears, they looked just as thin and withered as before.. I told this to the magicians, but no one could tell me what it means."

Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both dreams of Pharaoh have the same meaning. The Lord has showed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cattle and the seven good ears are seven good years. The seven bad cattle and the seven bad ears are seven years of famine. This is what God is showing Pharaoh; There are going to be seven years of wonderful crops throughout all the land of Egypt. They will be followed by seven years of no crops. The famine will be so bad that no one will even remember the good years. It will consume the land. Because the dream was doubled, the thing will surely happen. God will soon cause these things to occur.

This is what Pharaoh must do: Choose a wise and trustworthy man and put him over the land. He should appoint officers that take one fifth of the abundant crops during

Pharaoh was pleased with Joseph's plan. He said to all his advisors, "Could we find a wiser man than Joseph in all the land?" So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has showed you all this, there is none as wise or trustworthy as you. You will be the one who rules over the land. You will be absolute in power with only me being over you." Then Pharaoh took the ring off his finger and put it on Joseph's hand. He dressed Joseph in clothes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He made Joseph to ride in his second chariot, with criers going before Joseph announcing that he was the second ruler in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh gave Joseph a new name and a wife.

Joseph traveled over the whole land of Egypt as ruler. He was thirty years old when he began to reign.

Joseph was about seventeen when he was sold as a slave. He was a slave and servant in Egypt for thirteen years, but he never gave up hope. He never stopped trusting God. And wherever he was, he worked hard and was a blessing to everyone around him. People saw that Joseph was different and they liked to be around him. They could see that Joseph was wise and worthy of their trust. Joseph understood that God's will for his life was to obey and serve him no matter where he was. Do we serve and obey God whether we are at home doing what we want, or having to do what we don't want? Will we have that same affect on those around us as Joseph did? Are we cheerful, hardworking, and kind? Do people see God's wisdom in our lives? Do people see Jesus in you and me?

LEARN: See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

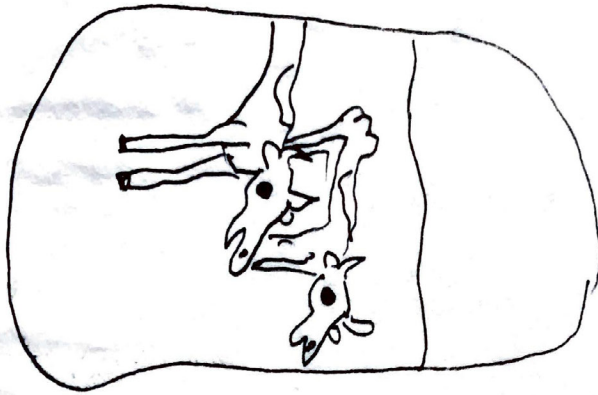
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

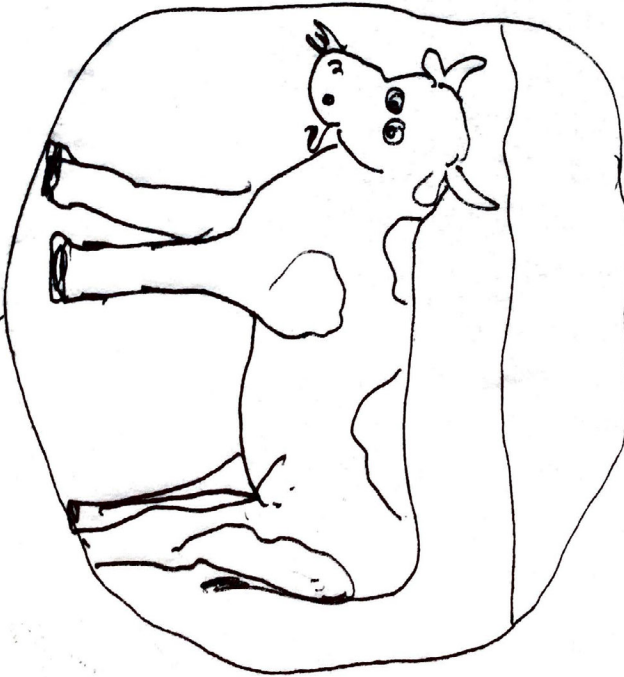
Ephesians 5:15, 16, 17

1. Color Pharaoh scene.
2. Color dreams and cut out boxes.
3. Fold as indicated
4. Glue as indicated -
the lean scenes
should be able to
fold behind the
good year scenes -
and then be brought
out to tell story -
the lean covering
the good
5. Draw clear outlines
around boxes if
you wish

glue as
shown to
upper
right of
Pharaoh

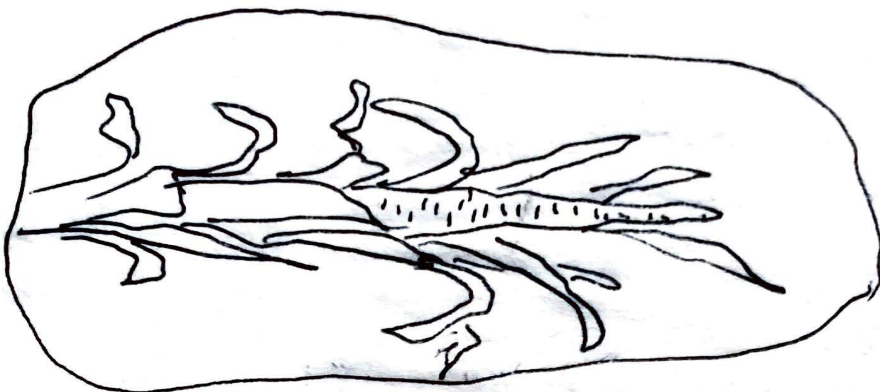


Fold out

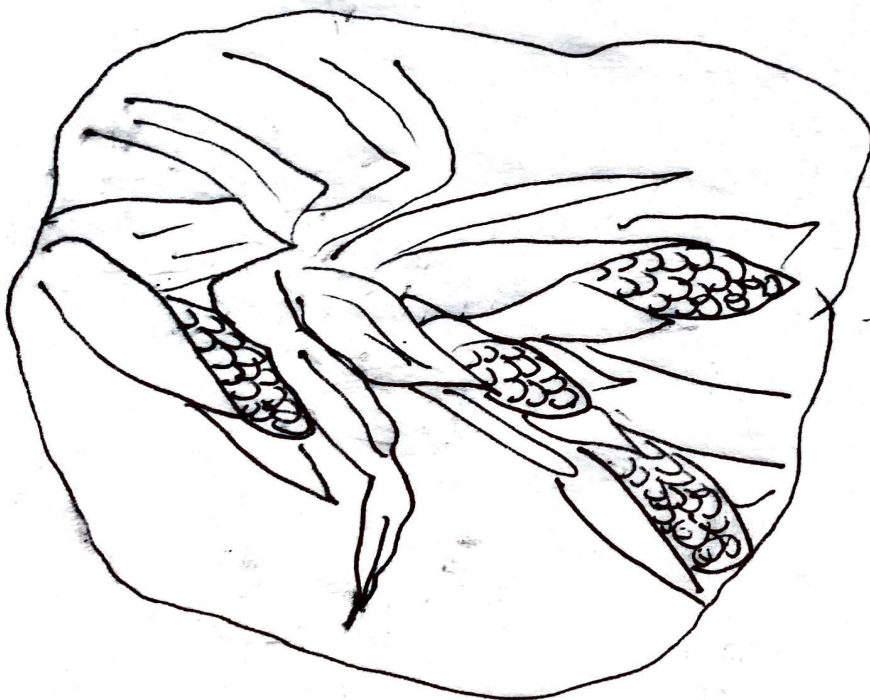


Fold in

glue



Fold out



Fold in
↑

See See

