

A Word from Kathy

Have you ever been in a tough situation so long that you began to think that this was your lot in life? The difficulty becomes your reality. Joseph had been in prison for several years now with no reason to think things would change any time soon. But one day Pharaoh had a dream that troubled him, and things changed for Joseph. What a difference a day makes! Read this chapter at least twice before answering the study guide. Pray and ask God to open your heart to all he has for you in this chapter.

Observation

1. Pharaoh had two dreams in the same night that were very troubling to him. He sent for his magicians and the wise men of Egypt to tell him what his dreams meant, but they could not. I would imagine things around the palace were very unpleasant. You know the old saying, "If Pharaoh isn't happy, then nobody's happy." Everyone was talking about his dreams and the need to figure them out. This sparked something in the memory of the cupbearer. What did he remember?
2. What did Pharaoh do when he heard there was a Hebrew who had successfully interpreted dreams?
3. Joseph was now standing before the ruler of all Egypt. Pharaoh told Joseph that he had heard of his ability to interpret dreams. Joseph responded "I cannot do it..." but what good news did he share with Pharaoh?
4. Normally I would encourage you to draw something like this, but cows are hard to draw; I tried. All my cows looked like they needed a good meal or a quick call to Ripley's Believe It or Not. Anyway, briefly describe the dreams.
Dream #1

Dream #2
5. Why did Pharaoh dream two dreams in the same night (vss 25, 32)?
6. What was Joseph's interpretation of the dreams?

7. Joseph warned Pharaoh that it was time to prepare. What instructions did he give him in vss. 33–36?

8. Pharaoh questioned whether he could find a man with that kind of wisdom and discernment. Then what did he realize?

9. On the very day he had been called to help Pharaoh, what kind of power was given to this ex–slave/prisoner?

What gifts did Pharaoh give him that would reveal the power he now held?

10. On that day, Pharaoh gave Joseph one more gift to go along with his new position and his new name; what was it (vs. 45)?

11. How old was Joseph when he became Pharaoh’s right–hand man?

12. He began a nationwide tour around Egypt preparing the people and instructing them on how to store up their crops. How much savings did he amass?

13. During those first 7 years of plenty Joseph and Asenath had two sons. What did they name them?
Look up the meaning of each of their names; it is beautiful.
Son #1 & meaning
Son #2 & meaning

14. What began in verse 54?

15. How did Joseph handle the feeding of all the hungry Egyptians through the years of famine?

16. How far reaching was the famine?

Application

17. Have you ever had a dream that bothered you? Can you imagine how Pharaoh felt? Did you wish you knew someone who could explain the dream?

18. Who did Pharaoh consult first?
We often run to the world for our answers, but when the answer is something that only God knows, the world can be of no help. Pharaoh found this out.

19. God had strategically placed the cupbearer in the position to have the ear of Pharaoh at just the right time. **God will place people strategically in your life also for your time of need.**
Do you have anyone like that right now?
Are you that person for someone else, in the right place to make a huge difference in someone else's life for the glory of God?

20. When Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret the dreams, who did Joseph say God would give the interpretation to? Joseph did not even want to take the credit for God giving him the interpretation.

21. When you are looking for a key person to do a job, what qualities do you look for?

22. Preparing for a seven year famine that would cover the entire nation would not be easy. It would take hard work and dedication from everyone. When Joseph shared the steps they would need to take in order to make it through this time, what did the people do? Are you willing to follow the leadership of others in the good times and in the rough?

23. God gave Joseph two very special gifts during the time of abundance. What were those gifts?
He gave them very meaningful names. Do you allow your children to bring the joy of the Lord into your life, or are you constantly complaining about them?

24. Because everyone had followed the Lord's plan during the famine, what did they have? Read Matthew 6:11;
Have you thanked God today for yours?

25. Joseph had a mountain of a problem when he was in prison. There were no appeals, no diehard lawyers who would fight for his rights. But when God was ready to move this mountain, it was really no trouble at all since he came up with the idea for mountains in the first place!
What mountain are you staring at?

Are you wondering what the outcome will be? Maybe it's a health issue of yours or a loved one, perhaps you are all alone and wondering how that will ever work, maybe your child is caught up in a rebellious lifestyle, or maybe you are watching your marriage fall apart and don't know what to do.

These are all mountains to be sure, but God is bigger than all mountains. He is no respecter of persons. **What he did for Joseph he will do for you, in his time. Do you believe this?**