GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Joseph Helps Egypt Prepare

Genesis 41:1-57



YOUR BIBLE READING

Joseph used wisdom and planning to prepare for a time of need.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Dreams About Plenty and Hunger

Genesis 41:1-57



Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had troubling dreams. In one, thin cows swallowed healthy cows. In another, thin heads of grain swallowed full heads of grain. No one he asked could explain them. Then a servant remembered Joseph, who was still in prison. The two dreams use different images but share a pattern: something weak and empty consumes something healthy. Pharaoh needs an explanation that the people around him cannot provide.

Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Joseph explained that God could give the answer. Both dreams meant the same thing: seven years of plentiful harvests would come, followed by seven years of severe famine. Famine meant that food would become very hard to find. Joseph says the meaning comes from God rather than claiming special power of his own. The repeated message points to a coming change from abundance to a serious shortage.

Joseph suggested a plan. Pharaoh should choose a wise person to organize the gathering and storage of grain during the good years. The stored food could help the country through the years of hunger. Pharaoh chose Joseph and gave him great responsibility over Egypt. The plan calls for overseers, collection, and storage in cities. It is a public task involving organization over years, not simply advice for one household to save a little grain.

During the plentiful years, Joseph gathered and stored grain in the cities. There was so much that he stopped counting it. Then the famine came, just as the dreams had shown. Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain. People from Egypt and other lands came to buy food because the hunger was widespread. The storehouses matter when the harvests fail. The passage describes grain being sold, with buyers coming from beyond Egypt; it does not say that everyone receives it as a free gift.

Remember: Preparing while there is enough can help a community later.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Wisdom Becomes Organized Work

Genesis 41:1-57



Pharaoh hears about Joseph through his chief cupbearer, who remembers a time in prison when Joseph explained dreams. Joseph is brought out, changes his appearance and clothes, and comes before the king. The movement is sudden, but the answer he gives is modest about his own ability. He points to God as the source of the explanation Pharaoh needs, rather than promising that his own cleverness can solve every mystery.

The dreams refer to years. Seven healthy cows and seven full heads of grain represent years of plenty. The thin cows and empty heads represent the famine that will follow. The repeated dream confirms a single message in the story. Joseph explains it clearly enough for a response to follow. The meaning is not left as a puzzle that people admire without considering what the news will require them to do.

Joseph recommends collecting a share of the harvest while food is abundant and keeping grain in the cities. Pharaoh sees wisdom in the plan and appoints Joseph to oversee it. A ring, fine clothing, and public authority mark the change in his position. Yet the useful result comes through sustained work: traveling, gathering, storing, and managing supplies through the years when the land produces large harvests.

When the seven good years end, the difficult years begin as Joseph explained. People become hungry, and Pharaoh directs them to Joseph. The storehouses open, and grain is sold. Planning has made food available when the land can no longer supply enough on its own. The account shows a connection between receiving important information and acting responsibly on it. It also keeps the suffering of widespread hunger in view rather than treating famine as merely an interesting symbol.

Pause and think: What helps a good idea become a practical plan that other people can use?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Put a Useful Plan Into Steps



Choose a simple project that takes more than one day, such as preparing a class display or saving materials for an art activity. What would you need to gather, where would you keep it, and who should know the plan? These ordinary questions echo the organizing part of Joseph's work without pretending that your project is a prediction or a national emergency.

Having resources brings choices about their use. If a group has extra pencils, for example, it could keep them where children who need one can ask. An adult can help make the arrangement fair. Sharing responsibility may be more useful than praising one person for being prepared. A plan works best when the people affected understand how it is meant to help.

Hunger does not prove that someone has planned badly or trusted God too little. Families and communities can face difficulties beyond their control. If food is a worry in your home, tell a trusted adult who can help find support. You can appreciate Joseph's planning while also learning to speak about people in need with respect, compassion, and practical concern.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Joseph turns the interpretation of Pharaoh’s dreams into a plan that provides grain through years of famine.

What helps a good idea become a practical plan that other people can use?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What came after the seven plentiful years?

2. What was Joseph's practical plan?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Joseph explained them and organized grain storage.
- ☐ People bought stored grain during the famine.
- ☐ Pharaoh had dreams that troubled him.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw two scenes: gathering grain and opening a storehouse.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Preparing while there is enough can help a community later.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Genesis 41:33-36

A thoughtful conversation

Joseph sold grain; the passage does not say it was all freely given. Famine is not caused by hungry people's lack of faith or planning.

Activity answers

1. Seven years of famine.
2. Store grain during the good harvests for the hungry years.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help us use what we have wisely and care about hungry people.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Genesis 41:1-57. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 01_Ge_41_15_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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