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Strange Friends in Strange Places

Key References: Genesis 39:20-41:16, 39-45; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 20, pp. 218-223; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 57-60; Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 17, 12















Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 61.

powertext

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity" (Proverbs 17:17).

powerpoint



We take responsibility for our actions and respect the needs of others.

Have you ever promised someone that you would do something for them and then forgotten all about it? What happened? Did that person ever forgive you?

The king awoke with a start. Last night what little sleep he had managed to get had been disturbed by dreams that left him worried and puzzled.

In the dreams he was standing by the Nile River when he saw seven fat, healthy cows come out of the water. Almost at the same time seven skinny cows came out of the water and ate up the fat cows. Then seven skinny heads of grain ate seven healthy heads of grain. These dreams were confusing him, and thinking about them didn't help.

The king shouted for his attendant. When the attendant hurried into the room, Pharaoh demanded, "Gather all the magicians and sorcerers in the palace. I need to meet with them right away."

As Pharaoh entered the palace hall a little while later, everyone could see that he was distressed. "I have called you together today because I need your help. Last night I had two dreams. I want someone to tell me what they mean."

The king described his dreams to the magicians, but they could not tell him what they meant. Then the sorcerers could not tell the king what he wanted to know either.

Pharaoh raged, "What do you mean, you do not know the

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Sunday

READ Read Proverbs 17:17 and this week's story, "Strange Friends in Strange Places."

LIST What kind of friend was Joseph? List some qualities you have that others would want in a friend.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Proverbs 17:17.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a true friend.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 39:20-23.

MAKE On a piece of paper, write your power text. Create as many acrostics for the word "friend" and the name "Joseph" as you can. Write your acrostic all around the edges of the paper to decorate it. (For example: Jailed unfairly; On God's side; S . . . ; E . . . ; P . . . ; H . . .)

PRAY Ask God to help you keep your promises.

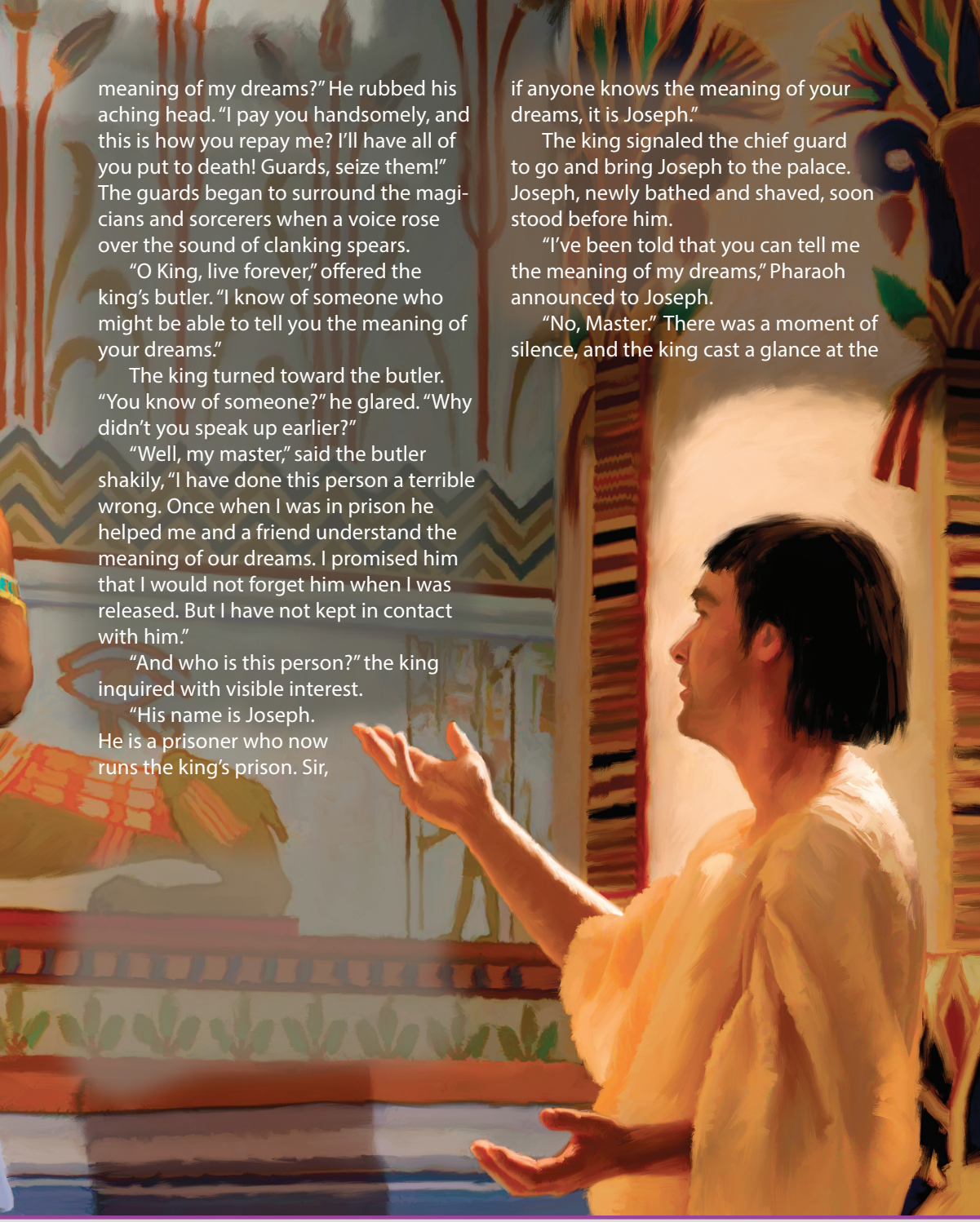
Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 40.

THINK Why do you think the cupbearer forgot Joseph? Have you ever had a friend forget a promise made to you? How did you feel? Have you ever forgotten about a promise you made to a friend? How do you think your friend felt? Write about this in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Praise God for His faithfulness in keeping promises.





meaning of my dreams?" He rubbed his aching head. "I pay you handsomely, and this is how you repay me? I'll have all of you put to death! Guards, seize them!" The guards began to surround the magicians and sorcerers when a voice rose over the sound of clanking spears.

"O King, live forever," offered the king's butler. "I know of someone who might be able to tell you the meaning of your dreams."

The king turned toward the butler. "You know of someone?" he glared. "Why didn't you speak up earlier?"

"Well, my master," said the butler shakily, "I have done this person a terrible wrong. Once when I was in prison he helped me and a friend understand the meaning of our dreams. I promised him that I would not forget him when I was released. But I have not kept in contact with him."

"And who is this person?" the king inquired with visible interest.

"His name is Joseph. He is a prisoner who now runs the king's prison. Sir, if anyone knows the meaning of your dreams, it is Joseph."

The king signaled the chief guard to go and bring Joseph to the palace. Joseph, newly bathed and shaved, soon stood before him.

"I've been told that you can tell me the meaning of my dreams," Pharaoh announced to Joseph.

"No, Master." There was a moment of silence, and the king cast a glance at the

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Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 41.

THINK In what way did the cupbearer finally show respect for Joseph?

DO Do one thing today to show God and others that you are His friend. Record what happens in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Ask God for the strength to take responsibility for your own actions.

Thursday

READ Read Isaiah 61:1, 2; Micah 6:8.

LIST In your Bible study journal, make a list of things that you could do to show love and respect to others.

PRAY Ask God to show you a specific way you can show love and respect to other children of God.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 25:34-36 with someone.

REFLECT In what way can you show friendship to the people in your community? Plan how to begin.

PRAY Choose a person or a family that you and your family will pray for each day as a way of sharing true Christian friendship.

butler. Then Joseph continued, "I cannot interpret your dreams, but my God can!"

The king was impressed. He told Joseph his dreams and waited to hear their meaning.

"O King, both of your dreams mean the same thing. The fat cows and the healthy heads of grain mean that for seven years Egypt will prosper. The skinny cows and the unhealthy heads of grain represent a time when there will be no food in the land."

Joseph continued: "Choose a trustworthy person to be in charge of storing up food for the whole country. One fifth of all the grain produced must be stored, as well as all the excess food, so that the people will have food to eat during the seven years of famine."

It didn't take the king long to decide that Joseph was telling the truth and gave good counsel. He looked around the room. One by one the magicians and sorcerers dropped their heads.

Finally the king looked at Joseph and said, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you" (Genesis 41:39, 40).

Joseph was amazed at the miraculous turn of events and recognized God's intervention in his life. He trusted that God would continue to give him the wisdom and strength for this next challenging assignment.



PUZZLE 8

THE GREATEST IS LOVE

Instructions: The greatest expression of respect we can show our friends is to love them as Jesus loved us. Find the Bible verse in the table on the right that expresses this by crossing off the words at the left—either forward, backward, upward, or downward, but not diagonally. The leftover words form the verse.

amoral
amoral
deceitfully
deception
disloyal
faithless
fakes
falseness
lies
lying
mistrust
treachery
untruthful

L	A	Y	O	L	S	I	D	S	I	N	C	E
G	O	D	T	R	E	A	C	H	E	R	Y	L
F	S	O	N	O	I	T	P	E	C	E	D	U
A	L	O	V	E	D	A	M	O	R	A	L	F
I	S	S	E	N	E	S	L	A	F	U	S	H
T	W	E	G	N	I	Y	L	A	L	S	O	T
H	O	U	G	H	T	T	O	L	O	V	E	U
L	T	S	U	R	T	S	I	M	O	N	E	R
E	L	A	R	O	M	A	F	A	K	E	S	T
S	D	E	C	E	I	T	F	U	L	L	Y	N
S	A	N	O	T	H	E	R	L	I	E	S	U