

WEEK 8

A New Life in Egypt

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to make good choices.

Memory Verse
***"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"* (Colossians 3:23).**

Word of the Week
"Choose" - To choose is to decide to do something. God loves you so much, he lets you make choices. He wants you to choose to love and follow Him, because His ways are best!

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 39:1-20** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 214-218.

Sunday

Sold Again!

When Joseph closed his eyes, he could still imagine the green hills of his home. But those hills were now far, far away. The brothers who had sold him as a slave, and his father and Benjamin, were far away too.

Joseph tried not to cry. Instead, he opened his eyes wide. There was so much to see! After walking down dusty roads and through sandy deserts, he had come to the big city. He was finally in Egypt.

The traders led the camels through noisy, busy streets. Joseph walked behind, with his hands tied together. He watched everything closely. The people were so different. They spoke words he didn't understand, and they wore clothes he had never seen before. Joseph looked up at the tall palaces and great statues. It looked like a very rich city.

Finally the camels stopped. The traders untied Joseph and led him through the busy marketplace. He stood still as the traders began talking to the people nearby.



Joseph couldn't believe it—he was being sold again! His heart beat fast. He was nervous but he knew God would be with him. The Bible tells us, "The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless His people with peace" (Psalm 29:11). That's just what Joseph needed!

Money jingled, heads nodded, and Joseph was sold. Who had bought him? Read **Genesis 39:1**.

I Wonder

» What do you think life will be like for Joseph in Egypt?

Prayer Idea
Thank God that even when we are in new places, He is with us.

Do
With the help from a grown up, look up images of ancient Egypt on the internet or in a library book.

Monday

A New Home

Potiphar was very rich. As captain in the king's army, he had lots of money, servants, idols, animals, and land. And now he had bought a new slave named Joseph.

No one in Potiphar's home believed in the one true God except for Joseph. Every day Joseph would have to choose. Would he choose to worship God or idols? Would he choose to be honest or steal? Would he work hard or would he be lazy?

Joseph decided to always follow God's ways and worship Him. He would be honest and work hard to please His loving God. The Bible says, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

Joseph began to work hard for Potiphar. With a sweep and a swish of a broom, Joseph cleaned the dusty corners that no one noticed. With a wash and a wipe, he cleaned away the dust hiding under the furniture. With a big groan, Joseph lifted heavy sacks of grain onto his aching back. He faithfully did his best in everything.

The people in the palace liked having Joseph around. He was always kind and helpful. It wasn't long before someone else noticed Joseph's hard work too. Who was it? Read the first part of **Genesis 39:4**.

In fact, he liked and trusted Joseph so much that he treated him like his own son. From a slave to a son! God was definitely blessing and helping Joseph.

I Wonder

» What good choices did Joseph make each day?

» What is a good choice you have made today?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us the strength to make good choices.

Mission Challenge

Invite a friend to Sabbath School in two weeks' time—week 9!

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time God helped you to make a good choice, even when it was hard.



Tuesday

Everyday Choices

Joseph woke up early with a stretch, a smile, and a prayer. Back in Canaan, he had worshipped God each day with his family. Though now far from home, he still worshipped God.

As a slave, Joseph didn't get to choose what to do each day. He had to work very hard and he didn't get paid. But Joseph chose to do his best and be kind to others.

Potiphar woke up early too. Every morning he would kneel down to pray to his idols made of stone, wood, or gold. These idols couldn't hear, see, help, or love him.

As time went by Potiphar noticed that Joseph was different. He saw that he was kind, honest, and hardworking. He didn't talk to idols. Instead Joseph always prayed to an invisible God.

Potiphar soon realized something amazing about this invisible God. What was it? Read **Genesis 39:3**.

Joseph was different because of God's love! Potiphar knew he could trust a good worker who was being helped by a powerful, living God. So Potiphar "put Joseph in charge of the house. Joseph was trusted with everything Potiphar owned" (Genesis 39:4,5, ICB).

Joseph had become very important. He learned to be organized and to lead the other workers kindly. He also got to meet clever men from Pharaoh's palace who taught him many things. God was helping Joseph become a great leader.

I Wonder

» How did Joseph show he loved and obeyed God?

» How did God show that He loved and helped Joseph?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you choose to be kind and thoughtful today.

Do

Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

Memory Verse

Fast Fact

The people in Egypt had thousands of idol gods, one for almost everything! They even had a cat god, a crocodile god, and a beetle god.





Wednesday

A Big Lie

Help! A loud scream came from inside Potiphar's home. The servants and soldiers came running. They found Potiphar's wife looking very upset. With pretend tears, she told them a story. It was a big made-up story. She said that Joseph had tried to hurt her.

Kind, hardworking Joseph? Joseph shook his head. He hadn't hurt anyone!

But Potiphar's wife kept lying. She was not a nice lady. She had asked Joseph to do something very bad, and he had said no. She didn't like that one bit! So she pretended that Joseph had hurt her so he would get into big trouble. What a horrible thing to do!

She told the lie to her husband. Potiphar had always trusted Joseph's honest words and good choices. But this story sounded bad! Potiphar "became very angry" (Genesis 39:19, ICB). What did Potiphar do next? Read **Genesis 39:20**.

Oh, no! Joseph hadn't done anything wrong. He didn't deserve to go to prison.

Thankfully God knew the truth. He knew Joseph had made the right choice. He knew that Potiphar's wife was lying. As Joseph was dragged away God was close to him. He would give Joseph the strength to continue to do what was right, even in prison.

I Wonder

» Has anyone ever told a lie about you?

» What did you choose to do?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help us trust Him, even when things seem unfair.

Do

Retell the story of Joseph in Egypt so far. Try to use the word "choose" as much as you can.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Shining in the Darkness

The soldier held Joseph's arm tightly and shoved him roughly into the prison room. What did the soldier do next? Read **Psalm 105:18**.

Then the guard walked out and slammed the door with a bang. Joseph listened quietly as the jangling keys locked the door.

How quickly his life had changed! He had been in charge of Potiphar's big, rich home and now this. Joseph looked around the dark and dusty jail. God had helped him make good choices. He had lived "the kind of life that honors and pleases the Lord in every way" (Colossians 1:10, ICB). But somehow he had ended up in prison.

Joseph had a choice to make as he sat quietly thinking. He could choose to be cross and complain. He could choose to yell, "That's not fair!" and stomp his feet. But Joseph chose to live for God and please Him.

Joseph knew that God was with him. He decided to show others God's love. When the soldiers were mean, Joseph chose to be kind. When the prisoners complained, Joseph chose to smile and say encouraging, happy words. He was like a light shining in that dark prison.

I Wonder

» Can you think of the different people in Egypt who Joseph has shined God's beautiful light to so far?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to choose thankfulness today.

Do

Shine God's light this week by calling someone up on the phone and encouraging them with kind words.

Memory Verse





Friday

Choosing to Trust

Joseph wrapped a prisoner's hurt arm and gave him a smile. It was good to be useful. If a prisoner complained about being hungry, Joseph shared his food. If a prisoner felt lonely or sad, Joseph spoke kind and encouraging words. If the floor was dirty, Joseph asked for a broom and swept it clean.

Joseph had made a choice to live for God, even in prison. The Bible tells us, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

It wasn't long before the soldier in charge of the prison noticed Joseph's honesty and helpfulness. "The Lord caused the prison warden to like Joseph" (Genesis 39:21, ICB). What did the prison warden do? Read **Genesis 39:22**.

The warden could see Joseph's kindness shining like a light! He could see his kindness was "because the Lord was with him" (Genesis 39:23).

Because of this, the prison warden totally trusted Joseph. He didn't even check if Joseph's jobs were done properly, he just knew they would be! "The Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did" (Genesis 39:23, ICB). What a faithful God!

I Wonder

» What jobs might you choose to do today to be helpful and kind?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to make good choices every day.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have everyone in the family draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper. On one half draw a time Joseph chose to do something God's way. On the other half draw a picture of a time, this week, when you chose to do something God's way too. Glue them into your family journal. Finish by reciting your memory verse.

For You, Parents

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters" (Epictetus). **How wonderful that God has given us the power of choice.**

Bouncing Back

How high can you bounce or jump? A red kangaroo can jump nearly 10 feet high! That means with one leap he could land on the roof of a minibus without any problem. That's a pretty impressive bounce, isn't it?

Find a ball and four other objects that won't break when you drop them, and go outside (e.g., rice in a sock tied off).

Now guess whether the objects you have will bounce back at you or just drop to the ground, go "splat," and stay there. Test each one. Were your guesses correct?

Sometimes people are like the objects that bounce. They might feel sad for a while when a sad thing happens and drop down low just as your ball did. But then they bounce back and feel good again. These "bounce" people are strong [resilient], just as Joseph was.

We all have times we go "splat" and hit a sad or tough time, but this is not where God wants us to stay. He is strong, and when we choose to have Him by our side, we can bounce again.

