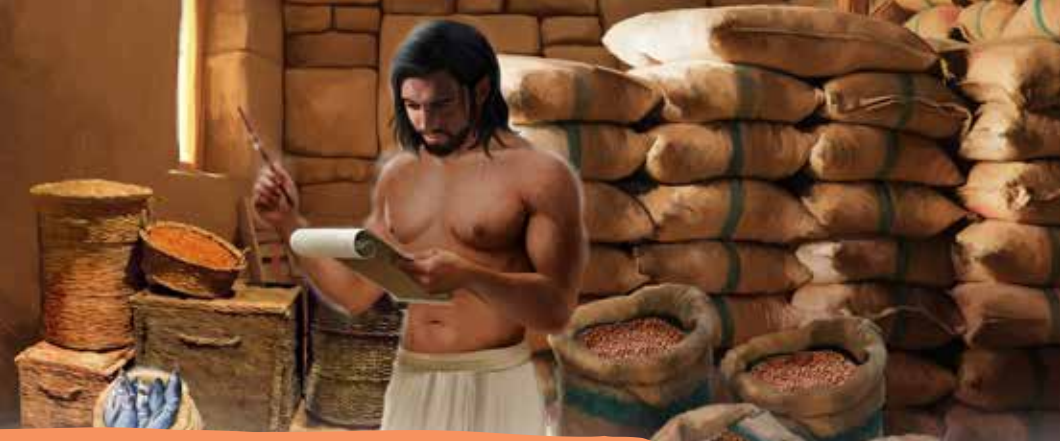
WEEK 9

Miracles in Prison



Big Idea: God is with me. He can do amazing things.

Memory Verse

***"For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God"* (Psalm 86:10).**

Word of the Week

"Amazing" - When something is amazing it is very surprising, and makes you feel full of wonder. Think about a rainbow in the sky—that's so amazing it makes you say, "Wow!" The things God has made for us, like our eyes to see and minds to learn new things, are also amazing. But best of all is God's big, big love—it's amazing!

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 40**, **41**; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 218-223; and *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 133-138.

Sunday

Puzzled Prisoners

The guard's keys jingled and jangled as he walked past the prison doors. Joseph opened his eyes and smiled. It was a new day in prison. He bowed his head and thanked God for giving him peace and love in his heart.

Joseph had been chosen to "take care of all the prisoners" (Genesis 39:22, ICB). It kept him very busy and made him happy too.

But this morning Joseph noticed two other prisoners were not happy at all! One was a butler, whose job was to serve Pharaoh drinks. The other was a baker, who had cooked fresh bread for the Pharaoh. Pharaoh had become angry with the men and put them in prison.

Kindly, Joseph asked the two men, "Why do you look so unhappy today?" (Genesis 40:7, ICB). The men said, "We both had dreams last night. But no one can explain the meaning of them to us" (Genesis 40:8, ICB).

Strange dreams? Joseph knew what it was like to wake up feeling puzzled by an unusual dream!

Could Joseph help explain the butler and the baker's dreams? He would need to know their thoughts and the future to be able to do that! Who is the only One who could do something so amazing? Read **Psalm 86:10**.



"Joseph said to them, 'God is the only One who can explain the meaning of dreams. So tell me your dreams' " (Genesis 40:8, ICB).

He wanted them to know that his God could do amazing and impossible things. His God could help them!

I Wonder

» Can you remember Joseph's two dreams? What were they?

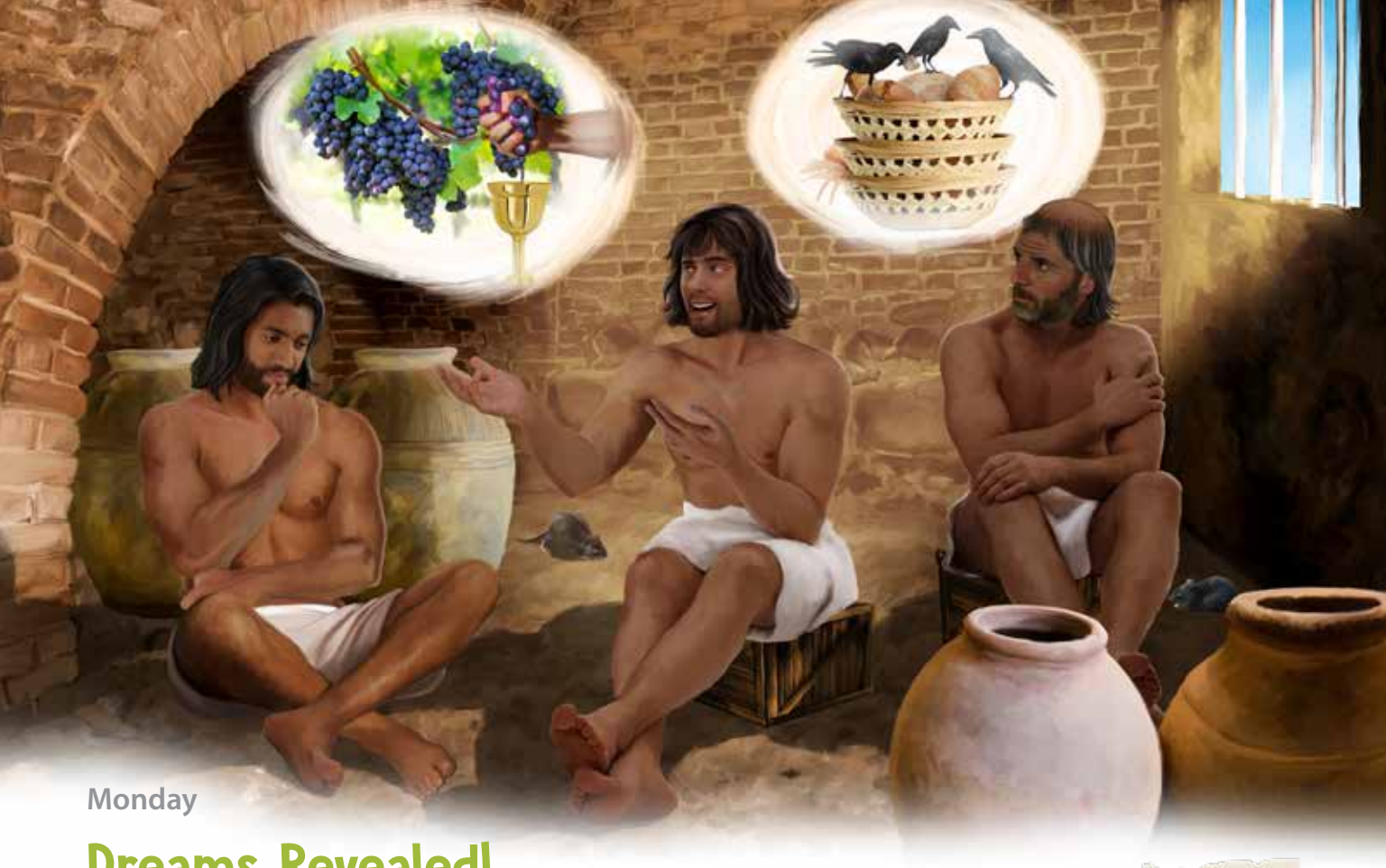
» Can you think of two amazing things that God can do that we can't?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the amazing things that only He can do.

Do

Look very closely and carefully at a flower. Try to draw every little thing you see. Isn't it amazing!



Monday

Dreams Revealed!

The butler and the baker were amazed by Joseph's words. His God could tell them the meaning of their strange dreams!

Quickly the butler began. "I dreamed I saw a vine. On the vine there were three branches" (Genesis 40:9-10, ICB). Sweet, juicy grapes had grown on the branches. He had then picked the grapes and squeezed them into a cup for Pharaoh to drink.

As Joseph listened, God did something amazing! He showed Joseph what the strange dream meant. What did Joseph say? Read **Genesis 40:13**.

The butler's eyes opened wide and his grin grew big. He would be free! What wonderful news.

Seeing the smiling butler, the baker was excited to tell his dream to Joseph too. "I dreamed there were three bread baskets on my head" (Genesis 40:16, ICB). The baskets were piled high with delicious baked food for the king. But birds swooped down and began eating the food instead.

When the baker finished telling Joseph the dream, God did something amazing again. He showed Joseph what this dream meant too. This time Joseph's eyes misted with sadness as he told the baker that he would not serve the Pharaoh again. Sadly, in three days he would die.

Three days later the baker died, and the butler went back to his job in the palace. God knows exactly what will happen tomorrow, next year, and ten years from now! Psalm 139:6 (ICB) says, "Your knowledge is amazing to me."

I Wonder

» Do you know exactly what you are going to be doing in three days' time?

» Why does God know everything? Say your memory verse.

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can see everything, even if it hasn't happened yet.

Mission Challenge

Pray with your family for the friend you have invited to Sabbath School this week.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Waiting, Waiting . . .

The butler stood perfectly still and waited. Finally Pharaoh cleared his throat. Then looking at the butler, he gave a tiny nod. Quickly and carefully the butler carried the king's cup and jug to his side. Then he poured the drink without spilling a drop. He was so happy to be back in the palace, serving the king!

Joseph's God had told him the meaning of his dream. And it had come true! The butler had bowed and thanked Joseph, over and over.

Before he left the prison, Joseph had said to him, "When you are free, remember me. Be kind to me. Tell the king about me so that I can get out of this prison. . . . I have done nothing here to deserve being put in prison" (Genesis 40:14,15, ICB).

Joseph waited for good news from the butler—surely he would be free soon too! He waited . . . and waited . . . and waited. For two whole years Joseph waited. What a long time to be waiting!

What had happened to the butler? Read **Genesis 40:23**.

Back in the beautiful palace, the butler had forgotten him. He had forgotten that Joseph had helped him and was still stuck in prison.

But God hadn't forgotten Joseph!

I Wonder

» Joseph had to learn patience in prison. How patient are you?

» Who can help you become more patient?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He never forgets anything except forgiven sins!

Do

Sometimes when things are happy for us, it's easy to forget others who are hurting. Make a gift for a hurting friend—a drawing, song, or treat to eat—to remind them that you care.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share an experience/miracle where God used His all-knowing power to help you or a friend.





Wednesday

The Pharaoh's Dream

Pharaoh sat up in bed and rubbed his head. *What a strange dream*, he thought. He had just dreamt that seven fat cows had walked up out of the Nile River to munch on green grass. They were followed by seven hungry, thin cows. The thin cows ate the fat cows but stayed skinny. How very strange!

With a big sigh, he lay back down. The night was still very dark. He closed his eyes and fell asleep.

Again Pharaoh woke suddenly. His heart beat fast, as he looked around the darkness. He'd just had *another* strange dream! This time seven hungry, thin stalks of wheat had eaten seven healthy, fat stalks of wheat.

A dream about hungry cows eating cows and now hungry wheat eating wheat. *What could it possibly mean?*

He would find out! With a shout, he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt to come to him at once. He told them his dreams—what did they mean?

The palace fell silent. The wise men didn't know! ". . . no one could explain their meaning to him" (Genesis 41:8, ICB).

Who is the only One amazing enough to explain dreams? Read **Genesis 40:8**.

Suddenly the king's butler remembered Joseph's words! He remembered Joseph's amazing God. And he remembered Joseph was still in prison.

The butler quickly told the king all about Joseph and his dreams. The butler had forgotten to help Joseph, but God had not forgotten Joseph. He never forgets.

I Wonder

» Who do you think sent Pharaoh his dreams?

» Who might help Pharaoh find out what they mean?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can do amazing things to help us when we can't help ourselves.

Do

The number seven was very important in these dreams. Say your memory verse seven times to help you remember it.

Memory Verse

Thursday

God's Amazing Answer

Joseph could hardly believe his ears. Pharaoh, King of Egypt, wanted to see him!

His mind swirled with questions as the soldiers rushed him from the prison toward the king's palace. What a surprising day! A servant gave him a haircut and some new clean clothes. Then as quick as a wink, Joseph, the slave and prisoner, was standing before the most important man in Egypt.

The king looked worried. He'd had two very strange dreams and no one could tell him what they meant. Could his butler's friend from prison help? What did Pharaoh say to Joseph? Read **Genesis 41:15**.

Joseph quickly shook his head. He said to the king, "I am not able to explain the meaning of dreams. God will do this for the king" (Genesis 41:16, ICB).

Joseph wanted everyone, even Pharaoh, to know his amazing God. He believed what it says in Psalm 86:10, "For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God."

Joseph listened quietly as Pharaoh told him his dreams. Then God gave him the meaning. Joseph said, "Both of these dreams mean the same thing. . . . God is showing the king what He is about to do. You will have seven years of good crops and plenty to eat in all the land of Egypt. But after those seven years, there will come seven years of hunger" (Genesis 41:25, 28-30, ICB).

God had helped Joseph explain the dream. What an amazing God He is!

I Wonder

» How did God help Joseph when he was in prison?

» How did God help Joseph in front of the king?

» Do you think God will help Joseph in the future too? Why?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He loves and cares for you now and always.

Do

With a parent, visit ADRA international online (adra.org) to discover which countries have very hungry people that need help now. Choose one, find it on a map, and work out a plan for a way to give.

Memory Verse





Friday

A Plan to Save Egypt!

The king listened carefully as Joseph told him the good news and very bad news. There would be seven years of good times with lots of food. Then seven years of no rain and no food. Oh, no! The people of Egypt would be terribly hungry!

Pharaoh took a deep breath and frowned. But he didn't need to worry. God had a plan to save this king, this mighty country, and His friend Joseph.

Joseph told Pharaoh God's plan. It started with a man. "So let the king choose a man who is very wise and understanding. Let the king set him over the land of Egypt" (Genesis 41:33, ICB).

What would this wise man be in charge of organizing? Read **Genesis 41:34-36**.

The king smiled. What a good idea! He said, "Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!" (Genesis 41:38, ICB). All the king's wise men and helpers agreed.

In a loud voice, the king said, "I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you" (Genesis 41:40, ICB).

Joseph was no longer a prisoner or slave—he was the Governor of Egypt! Only our loving God could do such an amazing thing. The Bible says, "For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God" (Psalm 86:10).

I Wonder

» Why did Pharaoh give Joseph such an important job?

» What do you think Pharaoh might have learned about God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that there is nothing He cannot do. Sing "My God Is So Big" or another praise song together.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of something that reminds you of how amazing God is. Maybe it is something in nature, a Bible story, or something God has done for you this week. Share together and glue in your family journal.

For You, Parents

"The trial will not exceed the strength that shall be given us to bear it. Then let us take up our work just where we find it, believing that whatever may come, strength proportionate to the trial will be given" (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 125).

Doctor Livingstone, Faithful Until the Job Is Done

Dr. Livingstone loved God. He loved people too. And when God showed him that he could be a doctor and a missionary, he was so excited! He could help people learn about Jesus and feel better.

He left his home in England and went to live in Africa. This was around 200 years ago. It took a very long time for him to get to Africa. And he couldn't take many things with him. But he was so happy to be helping people.

Dr. Livingstone worked for many, many years. Sometimes he didn't have enough medicine to help people get better when they were sick, but he kept doing his best—day after day.

For a time Dr. Livingstone lived in a little hut in Ujiji in the middle of the African jungle. One day he was feeling very low. He was very sick. He had no food, no more medicine, nor any money to get any.

Suddenly his servant Susi ran into his tent crying, "An Englishman is here, Master! An Englishman has come!"

God had sent a man to help him. His name was Mr. Stanley. He brought food and medicine to Dr. Livingstone and looked after him until he was better again.

Mr. Stanley said to Dr. Livingstone, "Dr. Livingstone, you are tired. Come with me back to England so you can have a good vacation. You have worked too hard for too long."

"No," Dr. Livingstone said, and shook his head. "My work here is not finished. I need to work here until the job is done."

Dr. Livingstone didn't give up. He was faithful. He wouldn't give up until his work was finished.

Joseph really wanted to get out of prison, but like Dr. Livingstone, he did his best every day in the place where he was until his work was done.

This story is adapted from *Stepping Stones* by Dorothy Eaton Watts, copyright © 1987 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

