

LESSON 26

Israel goes to Egypt

Day 1

Check in with Uncle Peter, Jon and Carol

Who has the best plans?

Do we always understand God's plans?

Do we sometimes forget about God's goodness?

Are any kings more powerful than God?

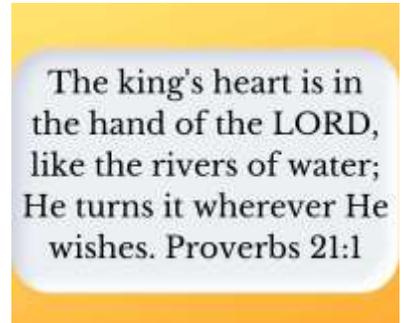
Is anything too hard for God to do?



Day 2

Read together Proverbs 21:1

Who is the most powerful person you know? Think about that for a minute. What does it mean to have power? Anyone who has control over something or someone else has power, but you are the most powerful *human being* you know. You may say "that sounds crazy, I am just a kid! Parents and teachers make me do things all the time. They have all the power". But listen, only you have control over your own feelings, actions and attitudes! Your parents do have power. They can and should have control over your daily movements, and they are responsible to put limits on you in order to lead you to learn to make right choices, but you are the only one who can decide *to listen* to the teacher, *put 100% effort* into your schoolwork, do your chores *with a cheerful heart*, use words to help instead of hurt. You are the most powerful *person* you know. God, however, has unlimited power over creation and everyone He allows to walk in it. If you follow Him and let Him rule over your behavior, then you can know you are led and loved by the One in control of everything!



Day 3

Read together Genesis 40

This short chapter in Genesis tells an important part of Joseph's story in Egypt. Remember, Joseph was in prison because someone else told a lie. He was unfairly accused, and even though he had to endure an unfair human judgment, he knew that God was with him, and Joseph's attitude reflected that knowledge. God gave Joseph the answer to the dreams of the king's servants for a very important reason. We often have things "happen to us" that are outside our control. A friend might tell a lie about us, something unexpected might happen that changes our plans, or we may have to wait a long time to get something we want. If we focus on God, we will see that HE is with us even during those unpleasant times. He will guide us when we ask and never leave our side, even while we are learning life's hardest lessons. When you pray today, ask God to strengthen you for the difficulties you face and give you the power and guidance to make right choices and have an attitude that glorifies God, even when it is hard.



Day 4

Read together Genesis 41:14-16, 37-44, Genesis 42:1-8, Genesis 43:1-2, and Genesis 45:3-9, 25-28, and Genesis 46:5-6 (Or all of Genesis 41-46)

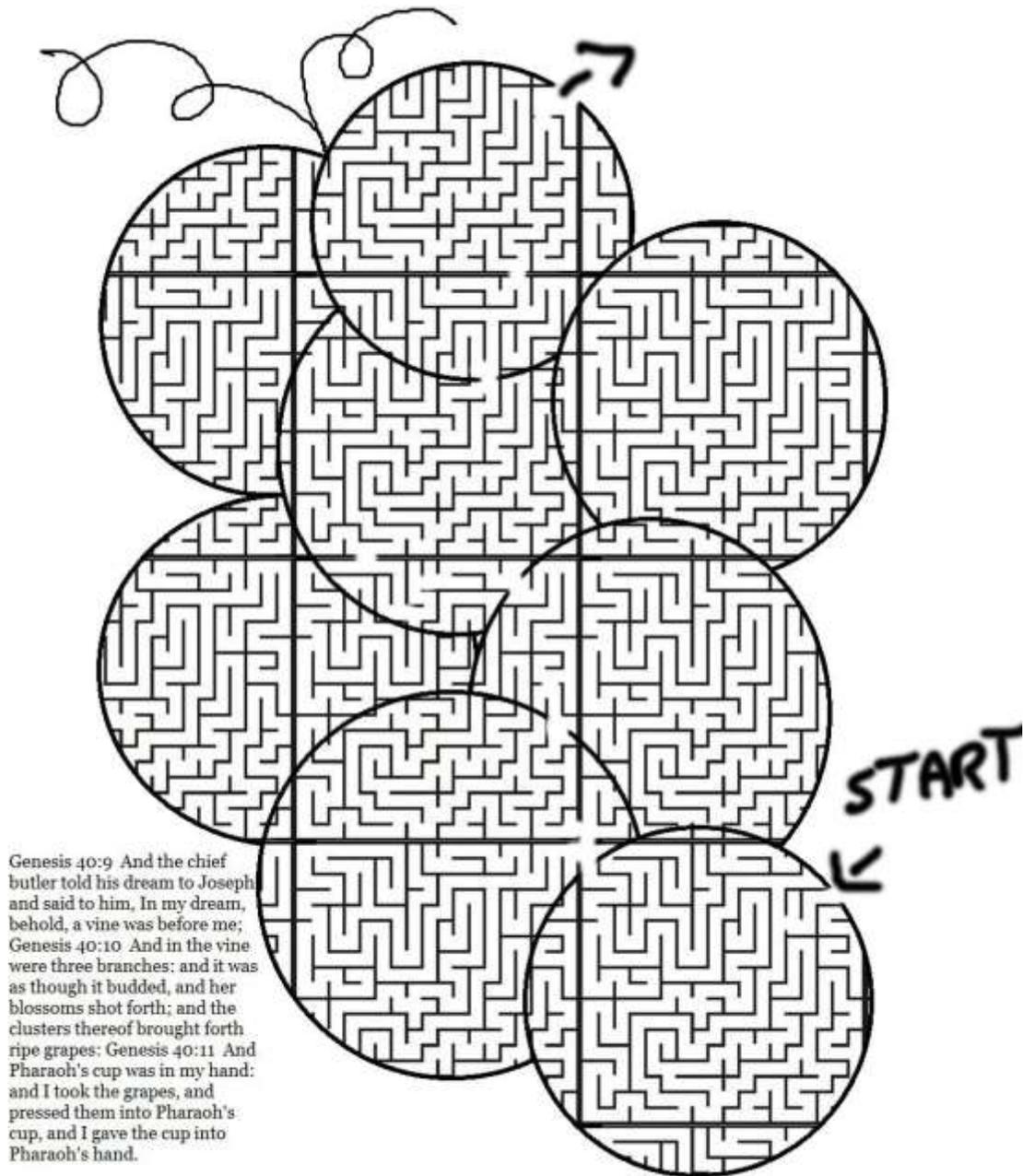
This is a lot of reading, but what a story! God used so many things to achieve his plan. God could have just given Israel (Jacob) the idea of moving his family to Egypt, but God's plans are so much bigger than the pieces we can see in the moment! Every piece fits like a puzzle that only God can see. We serve an amazing God! Joseph had control of his attitude toward the prisoners, toward Pharaoh, and toward his family, but God knew every feeling he would have and every decision he would make. Nothing is a surprise for God, and He is in complete control over all things. When you pray today, ask God to lead you to make right choices and to help you form an attitude that shows the world that you are His child.



Remember this moment from chapter

Jeopardy Questions

1. Who gave understanding of Pharaoh's dreams? (God did.)
2. What did Pharaoh's dream mean? (God was making known to the king that there would be seven years of very good harvest which would be followed by 7 years of famine.)
3. How did God fulfil the dreams which He had given to Joseph? (The LORD Gave Joseph wisdom to interpret the king's dreams, so Joseph would be given the position next to the king.)
4. Why did Jacob take all his family down to live in Egypt? (Because he heard Joseph was down in Egypt, there was plenty of food there, because the king invited them, and because God had planned for it to happen.)
5. What were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob's descendants called? (They were called the children of Israel, Israelites or just Israel.)



Joseph Interprets The Butler's Dream

Carol: Guess what?!

Uncle: You heard from your father?

Carol: We DID! How did you know?

Uncle Peter: I just guessed from your excitement. You look so happy I knew it had to be about your dad. Has he gotten a job yet?

Carol: Yes, but that isn't all. Remember how you said God's plans are better than ours, and...

Jon (Interrupting): And that He has something for us to learn while we wait for his plans to happen.

Uncle Peter: Yes, I remember telling you that.

Jon: Well, it's true! We could never have dreamed our father could get such a great job!

Uncle Peter: Tell me all about it.

Carol: OK. When Father went to the city to find work he had to look and look. After a few days someone called him. They said they really liked his attitude and his willingness to do the right thing by supporting his family even when being away from them seems hard. And guess what else? As soon as his training is over he is going to be working right here in our own neighborhood! He can even walk to work he will be so close!

Uncle Peter: It sounds like God really did have the best plan. What if your father had decided not to go into the city to find work? Do you think he would still have gotten this job?

Jon: I already thought of that!

Carol: Uncle Peter, you keep telling us how good God is, how He knows everything that is going to happen to us in the future, and that He can make His plans work no matter how hard things look to us. Now I know for myself that you have been speaking the truth about God. I will never forget what God has done for us.

Jon: Me neither. I have learned that God is all-powerful. He can do anything, even the impossible.

Uncle Peter: I hope you don't forget, because it is easy to forget what God does for us when everything is good in our life. Many people think they won't forget God's goodness and then soon forget about Him. Do you remember the story of Joseph in prison? He was left in a prison for years but he did not forget about God or His goodness. Joseph knew that God's goodness was more than the material things of this world. He kept trusting God with his future, even though the present situation was very hard. He did not complain, he kept a good attitude and brought glory to God with his actions.

Carol: I remember you said that God used Joseph's time in prison for good, what good could come from being in prison?

Uncle Peter: Come have a seat, and I will tell you the rest of Joseph's story. Then you will understand better...

