

Boaz Magazine

Joseph

From Daddy's Favorite, to Slavery, to Falsely Imprisoned, to Prime Minister

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Boaz Magazine

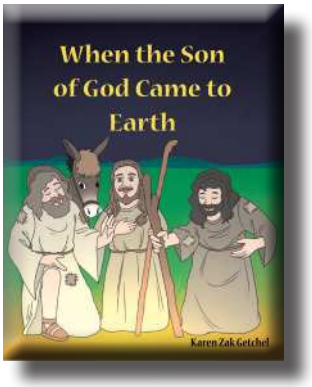
The Boaz Magazine is published by an independent committee. Our mission is to help parents engage their children in ways of the Lord. To help them to understand the Word of God and develop a faith that produces fruits and good work and will hopefully one day lead to a deep and committed relationship with our Lord.

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This 30 page book is geared for children 3 to 8 years old. While the nativity account is timeless, this book take the approach to help children relate to the Savior of the world in ways we sometimes overlook.

Jesus was raised by a step-father, and though he was the Son of God, no one on earth took notice of him, except a few shepherds.

Readers can purchase "When the Son of God Came to Earth" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon or Barnes and Noble.



You can find some great videos on a wide variety of subjects on CQ Kids.

https://christianquestions.com/category/cq-videos/videos-cq-kids/

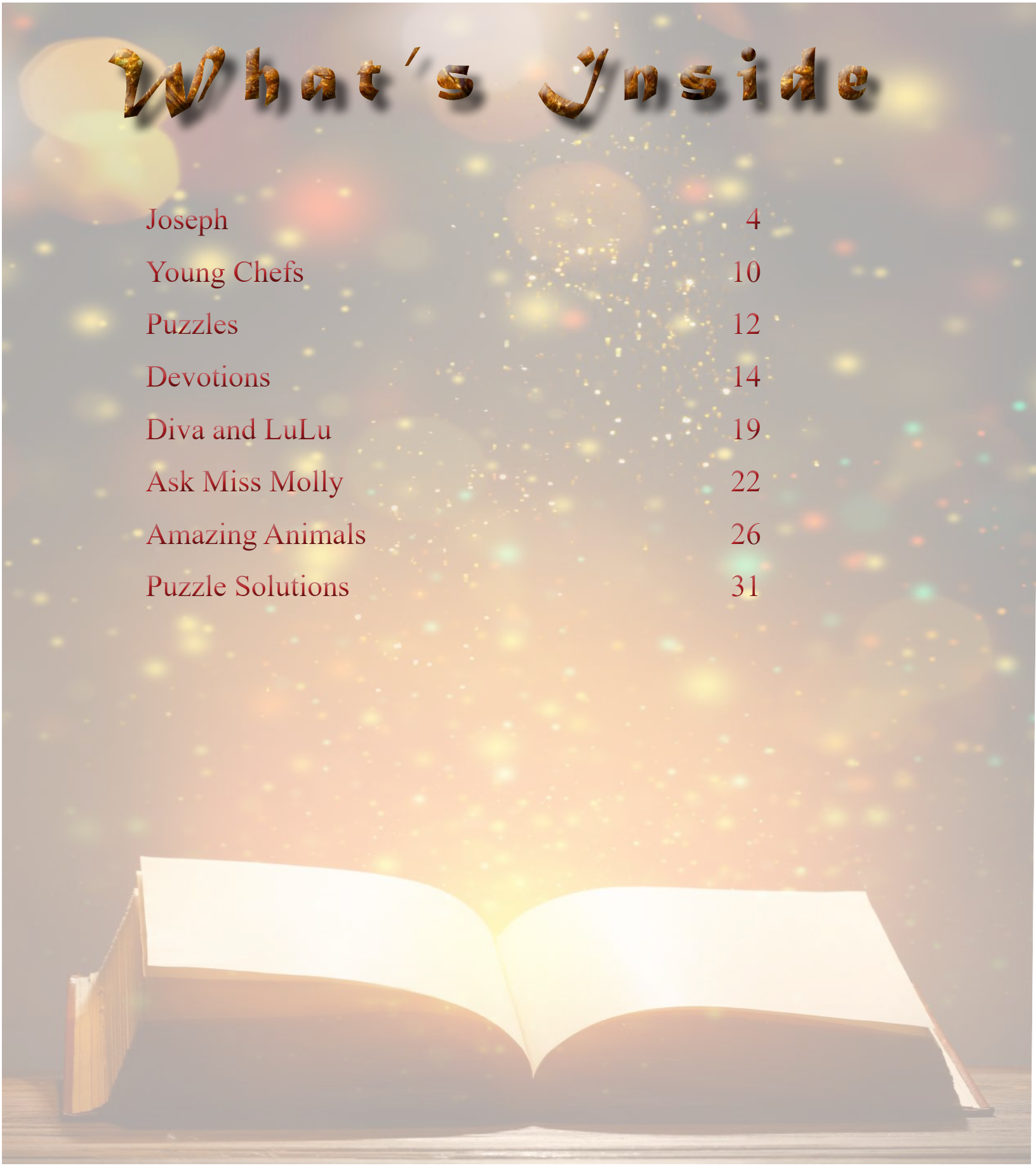
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Joseph

Getting to know Joseph

You have probably heard of Joseph. He was given a pretty nice "coat of many colors" by his dad, then he was sold into slavery by his own brothers out of both annoyance and jealousy. Then, after being able to accurately interpret some dreams for other folks he was made second in command of all of Egypt – a pretty nice way to end up. The problem in really understanding the story and feeling like we have something in common with him is that it only takes us about 15 minutes to read it. To us, it's just the account of someone else's experiences. In order to understand and feel the impact and weight of the significance of his life, we need to slow down and think about what we read, and what it must have been like to be in those circumstances for months and years on end. Let's discuss the lessons that we can learn in just a short time, but which took Joseph over a decade to learn.



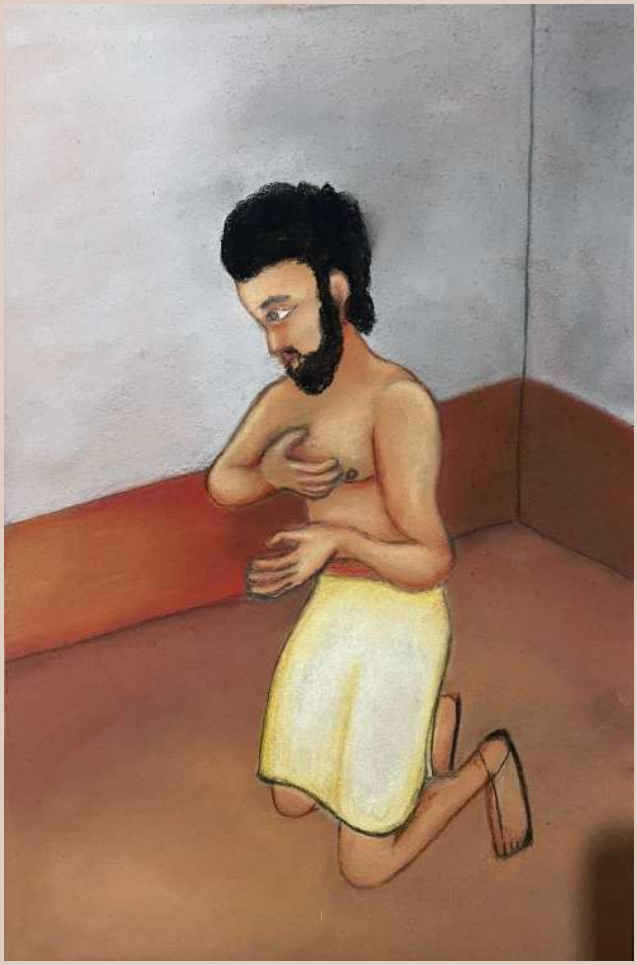


First, God has a plan for all of us, and when we put our trust in Him, things seem to work out in unexplainable ways. Joseph's first two dreams had to do with his brothers and parents "bowing" down to him. That is only a good dream if you are Joseph. To everyone else, it was not so great. Even his dad, Jacob, who loved him more than anyone, after hearing the second dream (where the 11 stars, sun, and moon bowed to Joseph) said "What's that supposed to mean? Are your mother and I and your brothers all going to come and bow down in front of you?" (Genesis 37:10, CEV –Contemporary English Version) These were much more than dreams though – these were prophecies – which is just another way of saying that they were foretelling the future. Why did he have them? Well, his life was about to get pretty tough. Not long after this, he was sold to "Ishmaelites," who took him to Egypt and sold him to the Egyptians to be a servant. In a matter of days or weeks, he went from being a very loved and appreciated son to being nothing more than a servant in a completely different country at seventeen years old. Imagine you were taken from your home to China, or Argentina, or Sweden, and there was no way for you to ask anyone for help to get back home. There was no escape. That may sound really scary, but that is the truth and the reality of what Joseph's life was like. It is from this situation that we begin to learn about how God guided Joseph's life and how Joseph trusted in Him. In fact, without these negative experiences, he would never have been in a position to perform these miracles, and we would never know who he was. Out of the darkest times come the most magnificent signs of God's presence in our lives.

The meaning and importance of Joseph's dream quickly changed from just a dream to an inspirational hope. You see, while Joseph was being

sold and traveling to Egypt, he did not know what would happen. But because of His faith, his inner belief that told him God was in control and working out His plan with him, he most likely knew that everything would be okay since God had given him this vision that his brothers, and possibly his own parents would eventually bow before him for some reason. There also might have been another "wink" from God – a sign that God was in control of the situation. You see, Genesis 37:28 says specifically that "Ishmaelites" were the ones who bought Joseph. Why is that important? Ishmael was Joseph's Granduncle, the brother of his Grandfather Isaac. That means these people, these Ishmaelites that purchased him were his cousins. Ishmael, like Joseph, was also sent away from his family. Hagar and Ishmael were sent away because it seems that Ishmael might have not treated Isaac with kindness. As they were sent away Hagar feared they would die. (Gen. 21:16) However, God had made a promise to Hagar and Ishmael (Gen. 21:13) that Ishmael would be a great nation, and God protected Ishmael throughout his life. (Gen. 21:17-21) It would not be surprising if this information passed its way to Joseph during this journey, that perhaps they started talking to each other and realized that they were related. It is a wonderful thought –that perhaps the Ishmaelites (whose father was Ishmael the child of Abraham, and his mother Hagar –who was an Egyptian), comforted Joseph by letting him know that Ishmael was cast away as well and was doing just fine, and that his offspring was doing well enough to go from land to land in expanding whatever trade they were engaged in.

Joseph ends up very blessed by these experiences. He becomes a "right-hand man" to Potiphar, who was a Captain of the Guard for Pharaoh. Joseph became a "prosperous man" and lived in the house of Potiphar. (Gen. 39:1-2) In fact, in verse 3 it says not only that God was with him and blessed his work, but that Potiphar could see himself that God was with Joseph, and that is a miracle. Joseph was left in charge of all of Potiphar's house, and undoubtedly Joseph was a hard worker and was very trustworthy. Unfortunately, Potiphar's wife, while left alone with Joseph, tried to convince Joseph to engage in completely sinful behavior, and Joseph would not do it. She accused him of being the one trying to seduce her to Potiphar, and Potiphar had no choice but to send him to jail. When questioned, because he trusted God and saw that defending himself might only cause more turmoil, like our Lord Jesus when accused, he said nothing.





In jail, Joseph again experienced wonderful things. Just like in Potiphar's house, he was shown favor. In Genesis 39:21-22 we read: "But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it." (ESV—English Standard Version) There is no question that this was a miracle. When have you heard of a prisoner who was so trustworthy to the jailor that he was put in charge of the other prisoners? The jailor himself did not believe in the charges against Joseph. It was after this that Pharaoh became angry with two of his servants, the "Chief Cup Bearer," and the "Chief Baker." The Cup Bearer had a dream, while in prison, that he took grapes from a vine and squeezed them into wine and placed it into Pharaoh's hand. Joseph, saying that God showed him the meaning of the dream, said that he would be restored back to Pharoah's favor in three days' time, because there were three branches attached to the vine in the dream. The Baker's dream was much different, saying that there were all kinds of food on his head for Pharaoh, and that birds were eating them. Joseph let him know that in the same three days, Pharaoh would put him to death. Both interpretations given by Joseph from God came true.

At last, Pharaoh had dreams that needed interpretation. He dreamt of thin cows and fat cows, and the thin ones ate the fat ones! He then dreamt of thin, scorched grain stalks that ate the other grain stalks that looked good. Joseph was given the interpretation by God, that they would have a seven-year period where food was abundant, but that it was to be followed by seven years of famine.

Joseph suggested to Pharaoh that he appoint leaders to store away one-fifth (20%) of all of the food, so that when the famine came, they would have enough reserves to eat and stay healthy. Pharaoh apparently agreed, because he set Joseph as the man in charge.

Joseph was set as the right hand of Pharaoh in a way that only God could influence. Most men of power want the power all for themselves. This Pharaoh gave all of the power in the land to Joseph, stating "only in the throne will I be greater than thou." (Genesis 41:40) That is an unusual thing to do for a man who is not second in line to the throne, as a son would be. But Pharaoh trusted Joseph completely, just like the head of the prison, and just like Potiphar. This is also a picture of the relationship between God and Jesus. Reading Genesis 41, it tells in detail the glories that were given to Joseph by Pharaoh:

- Gen 41:40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled:

- Gen 41:41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

- Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

- Gen 41:43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

- Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

- Gen 41:45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

All these promises are similar to God's word to Jesus, in the sense that Jesus will be over all the Earth, and all of the people. Not until sin is put away forever will Jesus hand the kingdom back over to his Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-25). It even says that Pharaoh gave him a wife – just like God is developing the Church to give to Jesus as a "bride adorned for her husband." (Revelation 21:2)

It was after this that Joseph's family came to Egypt in search of food. Can you imagine what they thought when they realized that the brother they sold was now second in command of one of the strongest countries in the world? Joseph was a little conflicted when they first came, but he was incredibly happy to see them. While speaking to them they did not recognize him at all. After all, it had been at least thirteen years! At one point they talked amongst themselves, and not realizing that Joseph could understand what they were saying, they admitted their guilt over what they had done to him so many years ago. It brought Joseph to tears. He is no different than any of us, in the sense that when our feelings are hurt, when we feel for any reason unliked, unappreciated, unloved, that if someone were to come to us in heartfelt remorse and express that they really do appreciate us, we would be emotionally vulnerable and might also come to tears. In this case, Joseph felt their remorse, and he knew it was true because they did not know it was him they were speaking with.

Joseph saved his family, and many other families, from a great famine. He had gone from place to place, serving one person to another; Potiphar, the jailor, and Pharaoh until all served him. He did not abuse his power, and he always knew that it was not him who was in control, but it was always God. It is a wonderful story, and he was a wonderful example of patience and faith. How can we be like Joseph? Well,



simply put, God has given us His scriptures to understand. When we read, we pray, and we understand that His promises of hope and blessing are for us when we follow Him, we can hold onto those truths and trust in them throughout our life. Joseph was never given specific instructions on what was going to happen, and neither are we. In conclusion, like Joseph let us trust, let us be humbled, and let God work His mighty power in our lives without being too worried about the day-to-day or about what tomorrow might bring.



Young Chefs



Our Young Chefs are: Gevevieve (12), Kelix (9), Lesley (7) and Boatemaa (4). They live in Ghana, a country in North Western Africa and want to share one of their traditional meals.

FuFu

1 Cassava Root (If you cannot find one use potato)

2 Plantains

Vegetable Soup:

1 Onion

1 Pepper

3 Tomatoes

2 Tablespoons of Tomato Puree

Salt to taste

Garlic to taste

4 oz piece of Beef

1 Tin Fish (Canned fish)

2 Garden Eggs (Hard-boiled)

6 cups Water

- Make the vegetable soup: cut the onions and peppers, add tomatoes and tomato paste, salt and pepper and garlic. Add beef, fish, water, and cook it all together in a pot.
- When soup is done, add the hard-boiled eggs and put it all in a blender and puree the soup (you can take the meat out if you want the soup to have some bigger pieces).
- While the soup is cooking, make the Fufu. Boil the cassava and plantains until soft, then pound the cassava and plantains into a dough with a pestle (the big stick). The more you pound them and roll the mashed vegetables to the center between pounding, it becomes like a dough. Dip your hands in water as you work.
- Make dumplings about the size of your fist and set them aside.
- Pour the soup over the dumplings and enjoy. The Ghanaian way to eat is with your hands. You pull a piece of the Fufu (dumpling) and mix in the soup, and eat it all together.



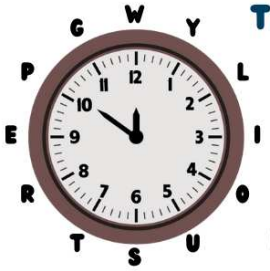






TIME TO INTERPRET!

-> READ GENESIS 41:15-32. SOLVE THE PUZZLE TO LEARN WHAT JOSEPH INTERPRETED PHARAOH'S DREAM TO MEAN! LOOK AT THE LETTERS ON THE CLOCK, MATCH THEM TO THE NUMBERS UNDER THE BLANKS, AND THEN WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE BLANKS.



JOSEPH GAVE GOD _ _ _ _ _ FOR THE
11 2 4 8 1
INTERPRETATION.

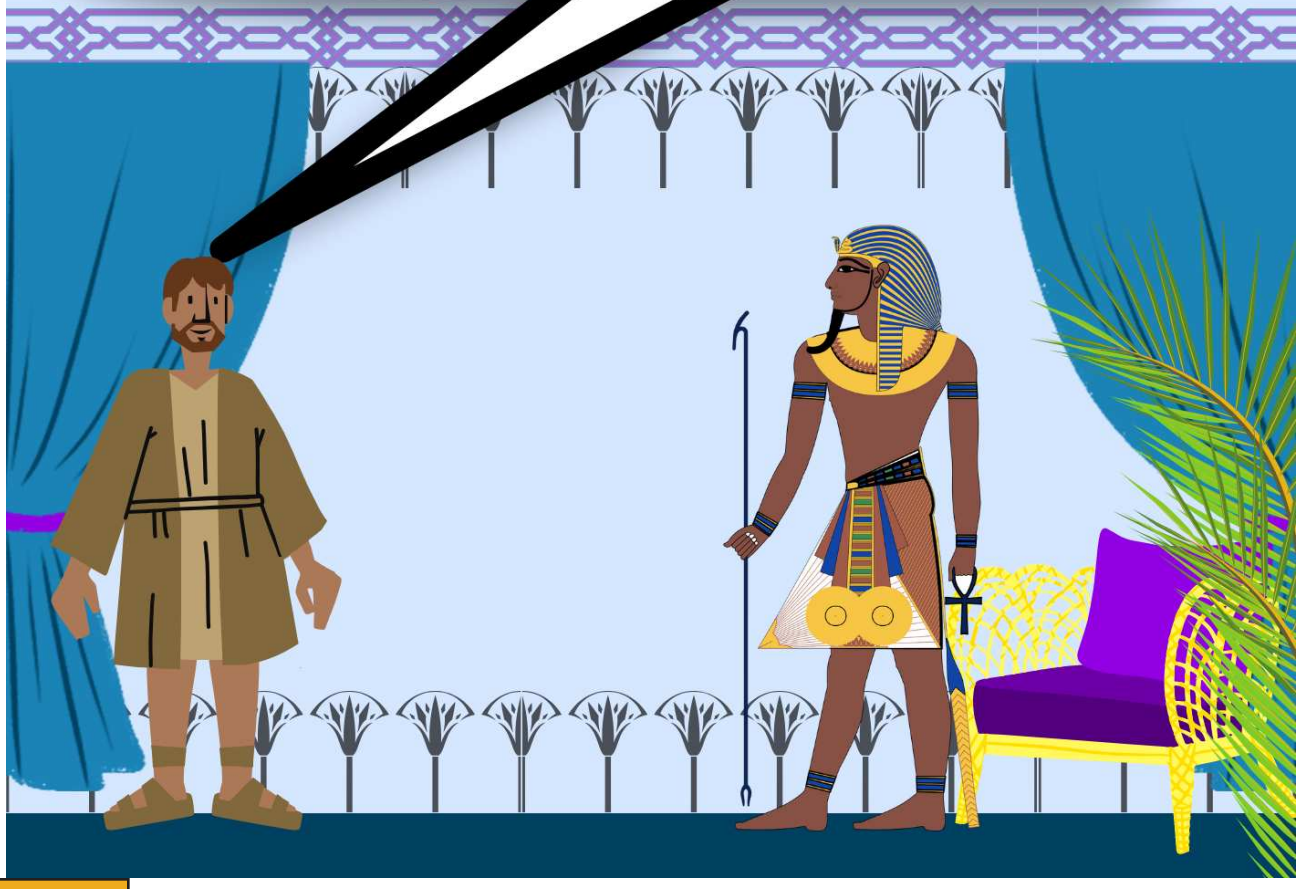
HE TOLD PHARAOH THAT THERE WOULD BE SEVEN YEARS OF ABUNDANCE AND _ _ _ _ OF FOOD IN _ _ _ _ _ .
2 4 7 6 9 11 1 10 7

AFTER THIS, THERE WOULD BE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE.

PHARAOH WOULD HAVE TO APPOINT A MAN WHO WAS _ _ _ _ ,
12 3 6 9

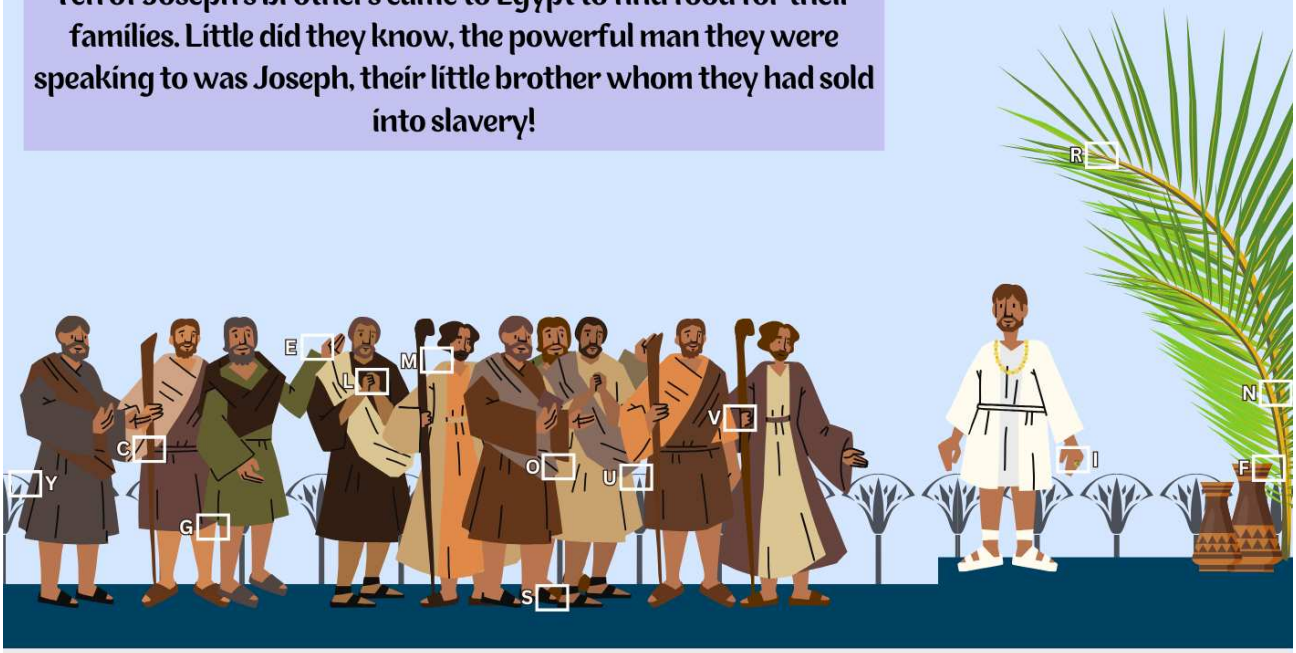
HAD FAITH THAT WHAT GOD SAID WOULD COME _ _ _ _ ,
7 8 5 9

AND WOULD _ _ _ _ _ FOOD FOR THE FUTURE.
6 7 4 8 9



Love in Disguise

Ten of Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to find food for their families. Little did they know, the powerful man they were speaking to was Joseph, their little brother whom they had sold into slavery!



Read Genesis 42. Look at the pictures below the spaces of the sentence, and search the image above to find the missing letters. Complete the sentence to find out what important lessons God has for us in this story.

Joseph had the power to _ _ _ _ _ _  to give his brothers food and send them away because of what they did to him.

Instead, he showed them _ _ _ _ _  by letting them prove that their hearts had changed and that they were very sorry for what they had done to him.

Like Joseph, we can be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _  to those who hurt us by forgiving, _ _ _ _ _ _  , and helping them however we can.

When Someone Tries to Hurt Us

"So Joseph followed his brothers and found them in Dothan. Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. They decided to make a plan to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes Joseph the dreamer. We should kill him now while we can. We could throw his body into one of the empty wells and tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will show him that his dreams are useless." But Reuben wanted to save Joseph. He said, "Let's not kill him. We can put him into a well without hurting him." Reuben planned to save Joseph and send him back to his father. When Joseph came to his brothers, they attacked him and tore off his long and beautiful coat. Then they threw him into an empty well that was dry."—Genesis 37:18-24 ERV

After walking for 65 miles (104 km), Joseph finally finds his brothers. They spot him coming in the distance. They knew it was him because of his special colorful coat that their father gave him.

They haven't seen Joseph for weeks and the mere sight of him from a distance made them want to kill him. The minute he reaches them, they attack him and throw him into an empty well.

Think about that for a moment. Out of ten brothers, only one doesn't want to kill him.

Previously we saw how Joseph loved his father so much that he would do all that he could to please and obey him. Now, compare that to how these sons were willing to commit murder and deceive their father.

What thoughts come to your mind when you think about this?

It seems that they hated that coat as much as they hated Joseph. This is what happens when we allow ourselves to be jealous of someone else.

Can you think of some other people in the scriptures who had a problem with jealousy? What did they end up doing because of it?

Let's think of Cain, Saul, and the Pharisees to name a few.

Let's Pray: Dear Heavenly Father. I see that jealousy is a very bad thing and a very dangerous emotion to carry in one's heart. If I have jealous feelings about someone because they maybe have something that I don't have or something nicer looking or they may have more friends, help me to be happy for them and not jealous. I have You, Lord, and all of these other things are not that important. In Jesus' name, Amen.

"One day Joseph went into the house to do his work. He was the only man in the house at the time. His master's wife grabbed his coat and said to him, "Come to bed with me." But Joseph ran out of the house so fast that he left his coat in her hand. The woman saw that Joseph had left his coat in her hand and had run out of the house. She called to the men outside and said, "Look! This Hebrew slave was brought here to make fun of us. He came in and tried to attack me, but I screamed. My scream scared him and he ran away, but he left his coat with me." Then she kept his coat until her husband, Joseph's master, came home."--Genesis 39:11-16 ERV

What a very scary situation Joseph was in. He was trapped and the only thing he could do was run. Evil people will try to trap you, and when you don't do what they want they tell others that you are the bad one. Stay away from these kinds of people!

She had to make herself look innocent before her husband. She was willing to lie to him and betray him, but she would do anything to save her own self and make herself look like a good person.

She might have been afraid that Joseph would tell, or someone might have seen what had happened, so she had to speak first. Everyone else was a slave in the house and they wouldn't dare disagree with anything she said.

Just as we saw with Joseph's brothers, one sin led to another and another—and other people were hurt. Tempting Joseph led to attacking Joseph and then to accusing Joseph.

Let's Pray:
Dear Lord, we see the danger of how one sin always leads to another. Help us to avoid temptation and stay on the straight path. There are many people in the world who will try to get us to follow them down a wrong path, even if it is against You. Guide us and protect us from these people. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Remembering Others

"Three days later it was Pharaoh's birthday. He gave a party for all his servants. At the party Pharaoh allowed the wine server and the baker to leave the prison. He freed the wine server and gave him his job back, and once again the wine server put a cup of wine in Pharaoh's hand. But Pharaoh hanged the baker, and everything happened the way Joseph said it would. But the wine server did not remember to help Joseph. He said nothing about him to Pharaoh. The wine server forgot about Joseph."—Genesis 40:20-23 ERV

"The Wine Server forgot Joseph".

I think that is a nice way to say, he was afraid to mention Joseph to the Pharaoh –because he might be thrown back into prison or worse, hanged like the Baker.

Do you know people like that who you think will back you up and say something helpful for you and they say nothing?

Maybe you have been like the Wine Server to your friends.

Sometimes we are afraid of losing our reputation if we show that we are friends with someone else who might not be in a popular position.

Lets think about what the Wine Server did and how it would have let Joseph down.

Let's pray: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that You would never leave me wondering. You promise to answer and You give other Promises that You don't break. I don't always remember You or I forget to trust in Your promises. Help me to be more like You and less like the Wine Server. In Jesus' name, Amen.



“Then the wine servant remembered Joseph and said to Pharaoh, “I remember something that happened to me. You were angry with the baker and me, and you put us in prison. Then one night he and I had a dream. Each dream had a different meaning. There was a young Hebrew man in prison with us. He was a servant of the commander of the guards. We told him our dreams, and he explained them to us. He told us the meaning of each dream, and what he said came true. He said I would be free and have my old job back, and it happened. He also said the baker would die, and it happened!”’—Genesis 41:9-13 ERV

We talked about the “Wine Server” forgetting before, but now he had important information that the Pharaoh might be interested in. But, it was a little tricky to know how to tell the Pharaoh how he knew about Joseph. He had to remind the Pharaoh that he had been mad at him and had thrown him and the Baker in prison and later killed the Baker.

Perhaps he saw the same frustration growing in the Pharaoh that had lead up to the last disaster and maybe that gave him the courage to speak up. Perhaps God gave him the courage at this time, because it was time for Joseph to get out of prison.

The Lord can sometimes move people to do things through various circumstances—but all things will work out for the good of those who love Him. Joseph loved God, but he had to wait two more years before the Wine Server had enough courage to tell the Pharaoh about him.

We don’t know why people do what they do, but what we do know is that nothing will happen to us without God having a resaon to allow it. Why He allows it may take years to be clearly understood. In the Joseph’s case, it took thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers to when he was able to understand God’s purpose. Joseph was no longer a teenager, but now a man and these experiences taught him many lessons that we will read about and discuss later.

Let’s Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, I know You love me and are looking out for me. Sometimes things happen that are hard and it can seem to take a long time before You help me. Help me to understand and to be patient and learn the lessons that You have for me until You change my circumstances. In Jesus name, Amen.

Don't Sugar Coat it

"Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of these dreams have the same meaning. God is telling you what will happen soon. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are seven good years. And the seven thin, sick-looking cows and the seven thin heads of grain mean that there will be seven years of hunger in this area. These seven bad years will come after the seven good years. God has shown you what will happen soon. He will make these things happen just as I told you. For seven years there will be plenty of food in Egypt. But then there will be seven years of hunger. The people will forget how much food there had been in Egypt before. This famine will ruin the country. It will be so bad that people will forget what it was like to have plenty of food."—Genesis 41:25-31 ERV

Joseph had a big life-altering message to give to the king. He didn't try to sugar coat anything, he just told it like it was. Things were about to get really bad, so bad that the nation would starve to death.

Can you imagine Joseph's thoughts once he understood what the dream meant? I am sure his heart would have sunk knowing what was coming, but despite his own feelings and emotions he honestly told the message.

Sometimes we might have to say things that are hard to say, but we will see in the next set of scriptures what happens when we faithfully say what needs to be said—it then opens the opportunity for change or remedy.



Let's Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, may I be like Joseph and says what is needed to be said and leave the rest up to You to find a way out. Sometimes I am afraid to say things that should be said. Help me remember that You are there with me and I can have courage. In Jesus' name, Amen.


DIVA & LULU
Teddy has Bottle Jaw and a poopy butt!
That is terrible! I need to go find him.
No LuLu—you are going to catch it.
Did you come to make fun of me too?
I'm not going anywhere. They are all going to laugh at me and call me Poopy Butt. I'm afraid.
No, Teddy. I won't make fun of you. You are very sick and you need help from the Shepherd. Let's go.
You need help from the Shepherd or you will die. I'll get the Shepherd.
How are you today, LuLu? I've been looking for Teddy today, have you seen him?
There you are Teddy! Why are you off by yourself?


Oh, I see you have Bottle Jaw. That isn't good.
Your eyelids tell me that you are anemic because of the parasites. I have just what will fix you.
You stay where I can look after you and I will make sure you get better.
I'm glad you are feeling better now. I told you that the Shepherd would help.
Thanks LuLu. I do feel better. I wish I had gone earlier.
They let you out of the barn! And your butt is clean!
What Diva means to say is that she is glad that you are feeling better too.





He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. He gently leads the nursing ewes.--Isaiah 40:11 BSB



I would like to tell every child, Thank you for sending these questions, they have blessed me and along with growing in Christ Jesus, I am grateful for this blessing from Jesus--through you all.

God Bless,
Miss Molly

Ask Miss Molly



















Dear Miss Molly,

In what language was the Old Testament written?

Amy
Age 12 Alabama, USA

Hi Amy,

Thank you for the question.

The languages of the Old Testament were written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The majority of the text is in Hebrew with Aramaic being restricted to several chapters in the books of Daniel and Ezra as well as a single verse in Jeremiah (10:11) and one phrase in Genesis (31:37).

Hebrew was originally a language spoken by inhabitants of the land of Canaan (Isaiah 36:11; 19:18).

Amy, continue to ask questions about the Bible, that is the way we learn.

God Bless,
Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

What is the golden calf?

Antonio

Age 15, Alabama, USA

Hi Antonio,

Read in the Scriptures, **Exodus 32:1-8**, but we will look at the first 4 verses here:

Exodus 32:1-4 ERV.. So make us some gods to go before us and lead us." Aaron said to the people, "Bring me the gold earrings that belong to your wives, sons, and daughters." So the people collected all their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from the people and used it to make an idol. Using a special tool, he shaped the gold into a statue of a calf. Then the people said, "Israel, here are your gods! These are the gods that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

The calf was an idol that the people worshipped instead of Jehovah (or YHWH).

It was like the Egyptian bull god, "Apis" in an earlier period. It was a symbol of virility (manliness) and strength and was also associated with the Canaanite god "El", it was idolatry.

Thank you for your question, it is an important one. According to **Exodus 20:1-5**, God tells us not to make any carved images and bow down to them—this is one of the Ten Commandments of God.

Thank you for the question and keep asking.

God Bless,
Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

Why were the first people on Earth named Adam and Eve?

Joshua

Age 9, Illinois, USA

Hi Joshua, you have asked a very interesting question.

According to the scriptures:

Genesis 1:27 ERV ...He created them male and female (Note the word "them").

Genesis 2:7 ERV Then the LORD God took dust from the ground ...

Genesis 2:21-22 ESV So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman ...

Genesis 5:2 KJV (God) called their name Adam...

The name Adam means "ruddy" or "red" indicating the color of the dirt or soil Adam was created from, which would have been reflected in his skin color.

Genesis 3:20 KJV And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

Keep reading your Bible and continue to ask more questions.

God Bless,
Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,
Where was Jesus born?

When Jesus was alive, was he a human-being like us?

Peace and Iralie
Ages 8 and 10, South Africa

Hi Girls,

Your questions go together so I will answer them as such.

Peace- Where was Jesus Born?

According to the Bible Scripture, Bethlehem in Israel

Matthew 2:1-5 BSB After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written.

Iralie- When Jesus was alive was he a humanbeing like us?

Matthew 2:8-11 KJV And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the ***young child***...the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the ***young child*** was. ...they saw the ***young child*** with Mary his mother.

Jesus had a ***human*** Mother just like you, and me, so he was a human being.

Girls, thank you for your questions. May God bless you both. Keep asking questions.

Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,
Why did Jesus die for us?
Kaniya
Age 9, Alabama, USA

Hi Kaniya,

This is a very important question for ALL MANKIND to know. Let's go to the Scriptures together and find the answers.

Genesis 2:16-17 ...God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In **Chapter 3** (vs 1-13), the serpent tempted Eve and convinced her that God lied to her when He said that she would die if she ate of the fruit, so she ate some and then got Adam to eat some as well.

Adam and Eve were disobedient to God's command. Just like when we are disobedient to our parents we get disciplined with love, these next scriptures show you what God did to discipline Adam and Eve with love. Remember GOD is love (**1 John 4:8**).

In **Genesis 3:22,23** God sent Adam out of the garden and away from the tree of life.

Because of Adam's disobedience all of mankind is born in sin and will die with no hope of a future.

John 4:16, 17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. For God did not send His Son into the World to Condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22 For as in Adam ALL die even so in CHRIST all shall be made alive.

Jesus died to free all mankind from death.

Thank You Jehovah (YHWH), and Jesus for your love, mercy, and Grace towards mankind.

Thank you Kaniya for this question, it helped me to be even more Grateful to JESUS.

God Bless
Miss Molly

Dear Miss Molly,

In Genesis chapter 44 verses 1 and 2: Why did Joseph order his cup to be put in the younger brother's purse?

In verse 5, Why does the account say that Joseph divined with his cup?

Jeremías

Age 13, Mexico

Hi Jeremias,

Thank you for your questions, they are great questions.

I don't think we can say with certainty on why Joseph did what he did because he didn't tell us.

Benjamin was Joseph's only full brother and was favored by their father Jacob, just like Joseph was because they were children of Jacob's favorite wife.

Back in those days men could have more than one wife and often did, but when Jesus came, he got his followers back on track —God originally wanted marriage between one man and one woman. Jacob having several wives and many sons caused a lot of jealousy between the wives and their children.

Joseph's brothers hated him and sold him because of that jealousy, and it is thought that he put the special cup in Benjamin's sack to see how the brothers would react. He wanted to see if they hated Benjamin like they hated him. But instead in the 20 years of Joseph's absence from the family they had matured and developed a love for the boy, who as we see, their father Jacob was very attached to.

They all tore their clothes in heartbreak and Judah got down on his knees and begged to be Joseph's servant instead of Benjamin. Thirteen years before it was Judah who had the idea to sell Joseph as a slave.

Now for the trickier question that you asked about the divining cup.

In Egypt it was a superstitious custom to have these types of cups—kind of like a crystal ball. None of the commentaries that I read on this subject thought Joseph actually used it for that purpose—he never needed it before when he interpreted and being that he trusted in the One True God, there would be no reason for him to use it.

But we see in verse 5 that this was also Joseph's drinking cup. Joseph instructs the servant what to say to his brothers and does tell him to say that he uses it to divine.

I am sorry, I don't have a good answer to your question.

Maybe one of our readers has a better explanation and we would love to hear it.

It is OK not to know something, and its important to admit when we don't know something and not to just make something up. I guess we will have to wait till Jesus' Kingdom to ask Joseph himself what he did with that cup.

Keep asking questions and looking for answers. We may not get them all right away, but if we keep our eyes and ears open, when the right answer comes we will know it.

Lord bless,
Miss Karen (Miss Molly's friend)

African Giraffe



Did you know?

Fully grown giraffes can stand from 14 to 19 feet tall (4.3 to 5.7 m), and weigh as much as 2,628 lbs for an adult male (1,192 kg) to about 1,825 lbs for an adult female (828 kg), some sources give a weight up to 4,254 lbs (1,930 kg).

A male is called a bull and a female a cow. By four years old they can reach their full height, but they reach their full weight when they are seven or eight years old. They only live about twenty-five years in the wild.

The giraffe's legs are about 6 feet long. They can run as fast as 35 miles an hour (55 km/h) over a short distance. Their bluish-purple tongues can be as long as 21 inches.

The giraffe is the tallest living land animal and also the largest ruminant on the earth. A ruminant is a group of animals like the cow, sheep and goat which pass their food from one compartment of their stomach to another and rechew their food. There are actually four different species (with 5 subspecies) of giraffe living, with seven others that are now said to be extinct.

Because their neck is too short to reach the ground, to get a drink, the giraffe must spread their legs and bend down which makes them a target to enemies like lions. Fortunately they only need to drink water once every few days; they get most of their water from the plants they eat. They live in a herd (or sometimes called a journey), and while one is drinking others keep a look out for danger.

Fun facts from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation:

1. To protect the giraffe's brain from sudden changes in blood pressure when it drinks, the jugular veins have incredibly elastic walls and large one-way valves that allow the veins to expand significantly and prevent the blood from flowing back to the brain when the giraffe's head is lowered.





2. Alternatively, to help fight gravity when blood returns to the heart from a giraffe's feet, their blood vessels are thickly walled and muscled, and the skin on the legs is so tight it acts like giant compression socks. These unique adaptations have been studied by scientists at NASA to get inspiration for human space suits.

The giraffe cows carry their babies for 15 months and a newborn giraffe can weigh at least 150 lbs (70 kg) and be 6 feet tall (2 m). Think about these massive creatures giving birth to calf that is the size of a man. The cow gives birth standing up and so the baby falls 6 feet to the ground but can stand on its own within an hour.

As big as giraffes are they don't require a lot of sleep. Reports say as little as 10 minutes to 2 hours a day of sleep is all they get. Laying on the ground sleeping makes them an easy target for their enemies, so most of the time they sleep standing up.

Giraffes have a friend that tags along looking for ticks to eat on them. The red-billed or yellow billed Oxpeckers, get a free ride for keeping their friend free from ticks.

Giraffes are found in the continent of Africa in areas called "savannahs" or "grasslands". Their favorite food is the leaves and flowers of the acacia species of trees or shrubs. A full grown giraffe eats about 100 pounds of vegetation a day (45 kg).

The giraffes in these pictures are called "Masai giraffe" and they can be found in southern Kenya and in Tanzania. These giraffes happen to live in the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya (which is called the Serengeti National Park on the Tanzania side—the combined reserve is 9,700 square miles (25,000 km2)).



Sheep

Did you know?



It is believed that there are more than one thousand distinct sheep breeds in the world. In the US, there are more than 60 breeds of sheep.

Not all sheep have wool. There are wool sheep and hair sheep. Hair sheep shed like a dog and many times use rough edges to remove their hair when they shed. Wool sheep require either rooing or shearing. Rooing is the process of taking wool off of certain breeds of sheep by hand plucking it. Shearing requires shears to cut the wool (like getting a haircut).

Sheep are basically classified as: meat, milk, wool or hair.

A male sheep is called a ram, and a female is a ewe. Sheep live in a flock, larger groups are called bands or mobs.

Some sheep have horns, and some have 4 horns like the Jacob Sheep. In Jacob sheep, both male and female sheep have horns. A sheep that has no horns is called "polled" (it can be natural or the horns can be removed as a baby)

East Friesian sheep are a large wool sheep that are used on dairy farms.

Diva and LuLu are hair sheep, they are a cross breed of different hair sheep: Katahdin, Dorper and American Blackbelly. Diva and LuLu were bummer lambs last year. A bummer lamb is a lamb that was rejected by their mother. These lambs will die if the shepherd does not step in and take care of them.

Sometimes they might get another ewe to nurse them, but that is not common.

The shepherd is a person who looks after the sheep. They make sure they are safe and have food and sometimes they have to become a doctor and nurse as well. When a sheep is sick, they can't tell you what it wrong with them. Sometimes you need to take temperatures (101.5 to 103.5 degrees Fahrenheit is a normal sheep temperature). Sometimes they get parasites, which can be seen sometimes in their droppings, or by checking their lower eyelids (it's called Famacha Score) to see if they are having problems. A shepherd will nurse



Photo Courtesy of Spot Hollow Farm

wounds and deliver babies if needed. A shepherd is an important part of the flock.

Sheep are mentioned in the Bible more than 500 times. The very first shepherd in the Bible was Abel (Gen. 4:3-4). Moses was a shepherd, as were Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus is not only called the Lamb of God, but he is also called the Good Shepherd.

John 10:11-15 KJV I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

God is our Shepherd.

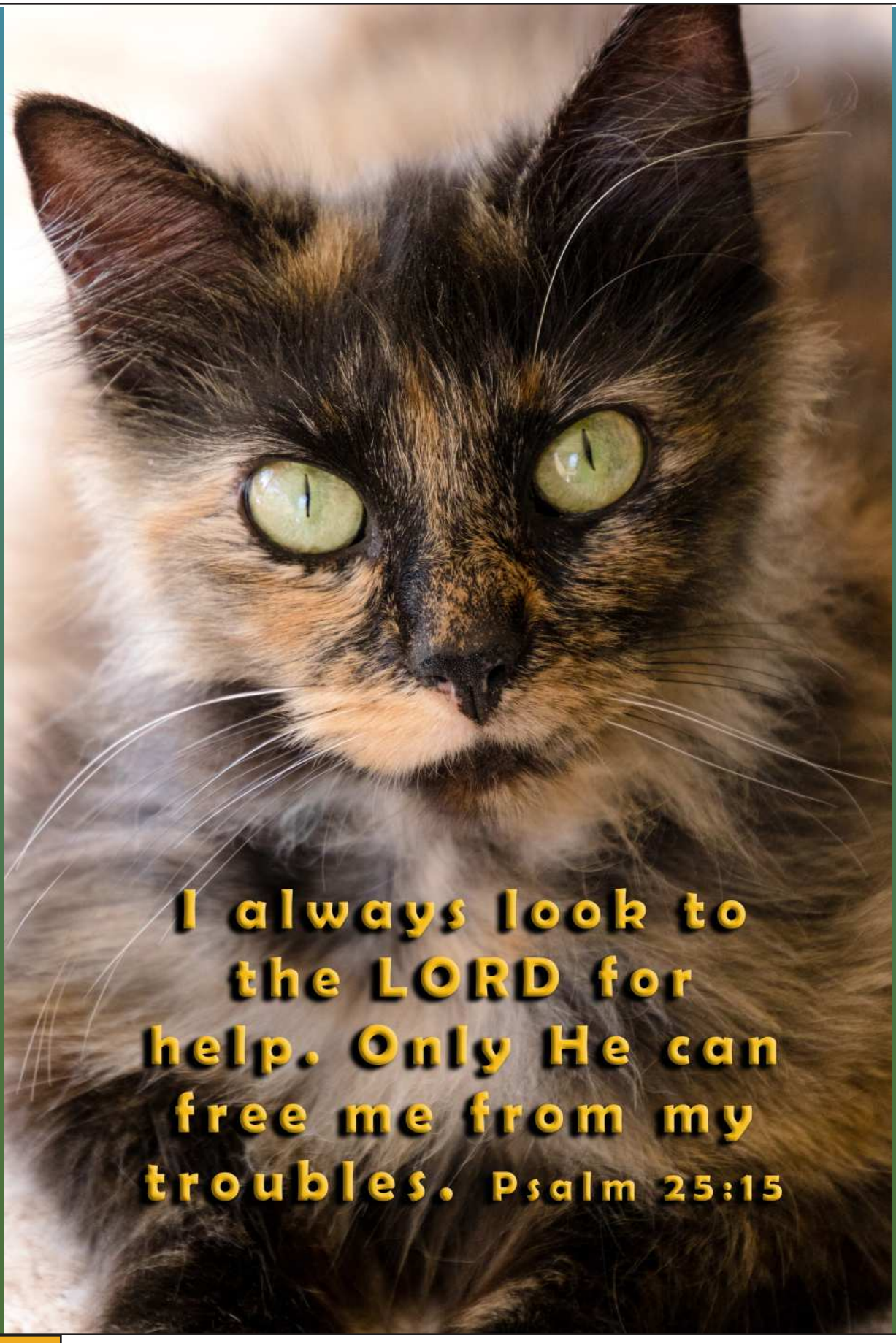
Psalms 23:1-2 KJV A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.





The real LuLu and Diva




I always look to
the LORD for
help. Only He can
free me from my
troubles. Psalm 25:15

Love in Disguise

Ten of Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to find food for their families. Little did they know, the powerful man they were speaking to was Joseph, their little brother whom they had sold into slavery!



Read Genesis 42. Look at the pictures below the spaces of the sentence, and search the image above to find the missing letters. Complete the sentence to find out what important lessons God has for us in this story.

Joseph had the power to R E F U S E to give his brothers food and send them away because of what they did to him.

Instead, he showed them M E R C Y by letting them prove that their hearts had changed and that they were very sorry for what they had done to him.

Like Joseph, we can be M E R C I F U L to those who hurt us by forgiving, L O V I N G , and helping them however we can.

TIME TO INTERPRET!

→ READ GENESIS 41:15-32. SOLVE THE PUZZLE TO LEARN WHAT JOSEPH INTERPRETED PHARAOH'S DREAM TO MEAN! LOOK AT THE LETTERS ON THE CLOCK, MATCH THEM TO THE NUMBERS UNDER THE BLANKS, AND THEN WRITE THE LETTERS IN THE BLANKS.



JOSEPH GAVE GOD G L O R Y FOR THE INTERPRETATION.

HE TOLD PHARAOH THAT THERE WOULD BE SEVEN YEARS OF ABUNDANCE AND L O T S OF FOOD IN E G Y P T .

AFTER THIS, THERE WOULD BE SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE.

PHARAOH WOULD HAVE TO APPOINT A MAN WHO WAS W I S E ,

HAD FAITH THAT WHAT GOD SAID WOULD COME T R U E ,

AND WOULD S T O R E FOOD FOR THE FUTURE.



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