

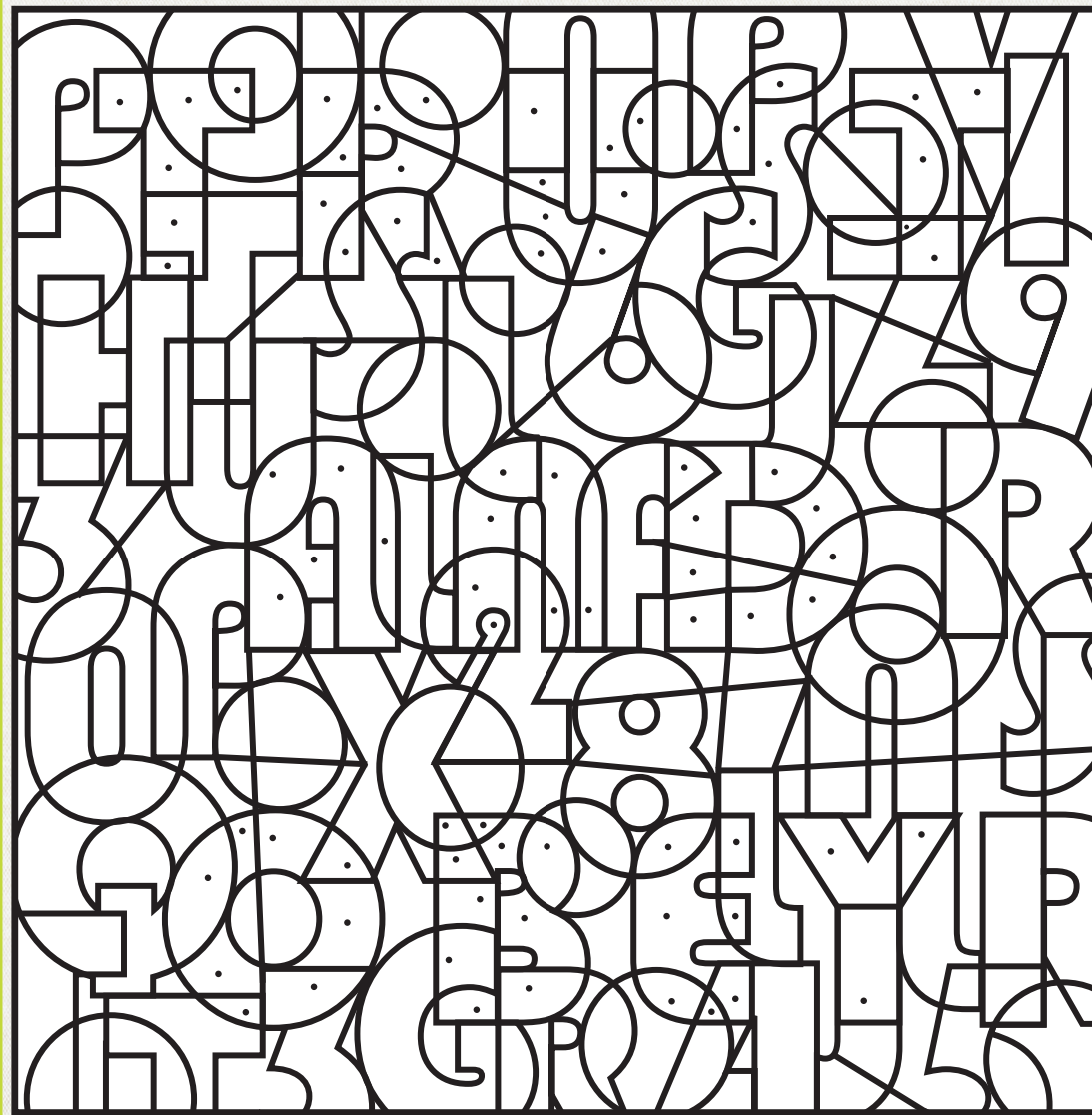


Grades 4–5 • Lesson 46

God Blesses Joseph

Genesis 39:1–4, 39:20–23, 40:20–23

Even in very difficult situations, Joseph relied on God, and we can, too. Find the hidden message for you to remember this week. **Color the shapes with dots red.** Color the shapes without dots a different color.



Name _____

Memory Verse

Unscramble the letters to complete the verse.

And we _____ that for
WKON

those who _____ God
VOLE

all _____ work
GNITHS

together for _____, for
DOGO

those who are _____
ALECLD

according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

What You Heard *In the Word*

- Joseph was sold into slavery, separated from his family, lied about, and imprisoned, all according to God's sovereign plan.
- God showed mercy to Joseph by placing him in charge of Potiphar's house, protecting him in prison, and arranging for him to meet Pharaoh's cupbearer.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

Suppose one of your friends said he just couldn't believe the account of Joseph, that it wasn't really a part of history. **What would you say?**

The Bible is God's true Word, so it doesn't need to be defended. But there are a lot of details in the account of Joseph that line up with Egyptian history. For example, Joseph was sold by his brothers for 20 shekels. Slavery was a common practice, and 20 shekels was the price of a slave. Also, Egypt was one of the few nations at that time that had prisons, and Joseph was thrown into prison. There are many things that have been discovered that confirm the Bible and what God says.

HomeWord *For Parents*

Throughout Joseph's life, we see that in spite of amazingly adverse circumstances, Joseph remained obedient and God remained faithful. Although Joseph's arrival in Egypt was extremely traumatic (sold as a slave by his own brothers), we know that God was with him (Genesis 39:2). God blessed Joseph in Potiphar's household (Genesis 39:3-5). Then God orchestrated another difficult situation when Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of immoral behavior. Her lies landed Joseph in prison (Genesis 39:20). But once again, God showed his faithfulness to Joseph by giving him favor in the eyes of the jailer (Genesis 39:21-22).

Egypt was unique in its imprisonment of criminals since other cultures typically imposed harsher forms of punishment. Places used as prisons included pits, temples, palaces, and fortresses. Because adultery was a capital offense in Egypt, Potiphar may have believed Joseph was innocent of his wife's accusations since he chose to imprison him rather than put him to death. Joseph was placed in a prison for the king's prisoners. Joseph rose to an administrative position due to God's blessing. Egyptians kept records of prisoners, which required the position of a scribe. If Joseph were the prison scribe, he would have been second to the keeper of the prison, which fits the biblical account and his abilities (Genesis 39:22-23). Prisoners under Joseph's charge could be serving a sentence of forced labor or awaiting a sentence, such as the baker and the cupbearer. The fact that the cupbearer was restored to his position on Pharaoh's birthday (Genesis 40:20) also fits historical evidence of Pharaohs releasing a prisoner on their birthday.

