

SESSION 4

Joseph Interpreted
Pharaoh's Dreams

BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 39:21–41:36

LIFE POINT

God can do all things.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus taught people what God
is like.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God can do anything.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: October 24

BIBLE VERSE

I am your God.
Psalm 50:7 (*Paraphrase*)

I am God, your God.
Psalm 50:7 (*CSB*)

I am God, even thy God.
Psalm 50:7 (*KJV*)

I am God, your God.
Psalm 50:7 (*NIV*)

I am God, your God.
Psalm 50:7 (*ESV*)

I am God, your God!
Psalm 50:7 (*NKJV*)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS

Huddle Ups (*optional*)

- Supplies (*for each small group*):
- “Collect Food”—pretend food items, paper sacks (*1 per child*)
 - “Joseph Interpreted Pharaoh’s Dreams”—crayons, coloring sheets
 - “I Can ... God Can”—2 sheets of paper, tape, marker

Countdown Video (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Worship Song (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (*5 minutes*)

Props: none

Connection Point Game

(*10 minutes*)

Props: 2 feathers, 2 paper plates, painter’s tape

Worship Song (*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Bible Story (*10 minutes*)

Props: Bible, pillow, blanket, teddy bear

Worship Song and Offering
(*3 minutes*)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse
(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions
(*5-8 minutes*)

Props: none

Real Life Connections
(*3-5 minutes*)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“No One Else”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“Making Decisions”
- **Bible Story:** *Bible Story* and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and *Connect to Missions* slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections and *Life Point* slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Collect Food”—pretend food items, paper sacks (1 per child)
 - “Joseph Interpreted Pharaoh’s Dreams”—crayons, coloring sheets
 - “I Can ... God Can”—2 sheets of paper, tape, marker

COLLECT FOOD

Prep: Scatter the food items throughout your Huddle Up space. (Leader note: If you do not have pretend food items, crumple pieces of scrap paper.)

- Ask: “Has anyone ever heard the word *famine*?”
- Explain that a *famine* is when there is not enough food for people to eat. Tell preschoolers that in Bible times some people collected and saved food so their families would have enough to eat.
- Give each child a paper sack.
- Challenge preschoolers to find and collect the food items.
- Repeat the activity as time allows, giving preschoolers the opportunity to spread the food back out around the Huddle Up area.
- Say: “You did a great job collecting the food. Today we will hear that God helped a man named Joseph know that the people needed to collect food. God can do all things!”

JOSEPH INTERPRETED PHARAOH’S DREAMS

Prep: Print coloring sheets (1 per child).

- Tell preschoolers they will hear a Bible story about a man named Joseph. God helped Joseph tell people what their dreams meant.
- Distribute crayons and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages while they wait for the session to begin.

I CAN ... GOD CAN

Prep: Draw a simple stick figure on a sheet of paper and print I CAN. On a second sheet of paper print GOD CAN. Display the papers on opposite sides of your Huddle Up area.

- Say: “Today we heard about a man named Joseph. What did God help Joseph do? (Allow for responses.) Yes! Joseph told Pharaoh what his dreams meant. God helped Joseph know that the people needed to collect and save food so they would have enough to eat during the famine.”
- Review the Life Point: **God can do all things.**
- Remind preschoolers that God can do things that people cannot do.
- Direct attention to the papers and read them aloud.
- Explain: “I will ask a question. If it is something that you can do, stand next to the ‘I CAN’ paper. If it is something that only God can do, stand next to the ‘GOD CAN’ paper.”
- Gather kids in the center of the Huddle Up area.
- Ask the following questions or make up your own:
 - Who can heal sick people?
 - Who can play on a swing?
 - Who can color a picture?
 - Who can do all things?
 - Who can sing songs at church?
 - Who knows everything?
- Lead kids to move back to the center of the Huddle Up area after each question.
- Remind boys and girls that they can do many things, but there are some things that only God can do.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “No One Else” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hello, friends! I am so excited to worship God together with you today! This is one of my favorite times each week. God is the only God, and He can do anything. Let’s praise God as we sing together.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STORY LEADER

Hi, everyone! Have you done anything fun since the last time I saw you? *(Allow for responses.)*

You are growing and learning to do so many things! You can run and play. You can dress yourself, and some of you can tie your shoes! As you get older, you’ll be able to do even more things!

You can do lots of things, but there are some things only God can do. God made the whole world, and He knows everything! Nothing is too hard for God!

(Show Life Point Slide.)

God can do all things. Let’s say that together: **“God can do all things.”**

God is the one true God. He can do things no one else can do. That’s what makes Him God! Listen as I say today’s Bible verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- I am your God. Psalm 50:7 *(Paraphrase)*
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 *(CSB)*
- I am God, even thy God. Psalm 50:7 *(KJV)*
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 *(NIV)*
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 *(ESV)*
- I am God, your God! Psalm 50:7 *(NKJV)*

God can do anything. Let’s pray and ask God to help us learn more about Him.

God, You are the one true God. You can do all things. Please help us learn more about You today as we hear the Bible story. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 2 kids
- ➔ Props: 2 feathers, 2 paper plates, painter’s tape

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Tape a start line to the floor.*
- *Tape a second line several feet away from the start line.*
- *Invite 2 kids to play.*
- *Guide players to stand behind the start line.*
- *Give each player a paper plate.*
- *Place a feather on the floor in front of each player.*

- Challenge players to fan the feather with the plate until it crosses the second line. (**Note:** Players should fan the feather, not hit it with the plate.)
- Celebrate successes!
- Invite 2 new players to play.
- Continue as time allows.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Today's game is a race! Who would like to play? (Choose two kids. Guide kids to stand behind the start line. Give each player a plate.)

This game might be harder than it seems! I will put a feather on the floor in front of each player. They will use the plates to fan the feather until it crosses the finish line. (Demonstrate.)

Remember, use the plate to fan the feather. Your plate should not touch the feather.

Do both of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

Sometimes it was hard to make the feather go the direction you wanted! Things can be hard for people, but nothing is hard for God. He can do anything! Let's sing another song together, and then we will hear how God helped a man named Joseph.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: "Making Decisions" (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God can do anything. There is nothing too hard for God. We worship God because He is the one true God. Let's sing and worship God together.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Christ Focus, and Bible Story slides; Bible Story Time video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, blanket, pillow, teddy bear

Option 1: Show the Bible Story Time video and conclude with a short prayer.

God, because You are the one true God, You can do all things. Thank You for helping us know what to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Option 2: Tell the following Bible story.

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

(Take prop items on stage with you. Yawn and stretch before speaking.) Excuse me! I'm sleepy today. I think I need a nap! I've got my favorite teddy bear, my pillow, and a snuggly blanket. Do you like to rest with a favorite toy or blanket? (Allow for responses.)

I like to take naps! Sometimes I have silly dreams while I sleep. Once, I dreamed I was the queen of the whole world! I had a big crown, wore fancy dresses, and lived in a castle! Another time, I dreamed about eating hotdogs on the moon! Of course, those things didn't REALLY happen. They were just funny dreams. Have you ever had a silly dream? (Allow for responses.) I think dreams are fun!

I know a Bible story about a king who had a dream. Would you like to hear it? Oh, good! This is one of my favorites!

(Open Bible to Genesis 41.)

A man named Joseph loved God and did what was right. God was with Joseph and helped him.

Joseph met two of the king's helpers. The helpers both had dreams that they didn't understand. They were confused! "Tell me about your dreams," Joseph told them. The king's helpers told Joseph their dreams, and God helped Joseph understand them. Everything Joseph said about the dreams was right.

Sometime later, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had two dreams. In one of his dreams Pharaoh saw seven healthy-looking cows eating grass. Suddenly, seven sick cows came and ate the healthy cows! Next, Pharaoh dreamed that seven thin stalks of grain sprouted up and swallowed healthy stalks of grain.

Pharaoh was upset about his dreams. He asked all of the smartest men in his kingdom to help him understand the dreams, but no one knew what they meant. The king's helper said Pharaoh should send for Joseph.

Joseph came and visited Pharaoh. "I have had two dreams, but no one can help me understand them," said Pharaoh. "I've heard that you can explain people's dreams to them."

(Read Genesis 41:16.)

"I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh [an answer]."

Pharaoh told Joseph about his dreams, and God helped Joseph understand them.

(Read Genesis 41:28.)

"It is just as I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do."

"This is what the dreams mean," said Joseph. "God will make food grow for seven years. Then there will be seven years when no food will grow. The people will be hungry."

Joseph told Pharaoh to find a man to collect and store food. Joseph said to save extra food so the people would not be hungry.

(Close Bible.)

God helped Joseph understand dreams and gave him the good idea to save food for the people. God is good, and He can do anything!

We can hear lots of stories in the Bible about amazing things that God did. Do you think God still does amazing things today? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes, He does! God is strong and powerful. God makes the snow and rain fall from the sky. His power makes the grass grow and the sun to shine. God even made YOU and helps you grow and learn.

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

God can do things that people cannot do. When God sent Jesus, He taught people what God is like. Jesus said that God is greater than anyone and loves people very much.

I'm so glad that God loves me. Let's count to three and shout: "God loves me!" Are you ready? *(Count up on fingers.)* One, two, three: "God loves me!"

Wow! That was great! I like to hear about God's love and His power. God can do ANYTHING! Let's pray together.

God, because You are the one true God, You can do all things. Thank You for helping us know what to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God is awesome! He helped Joseph understand Pharaoh's dreams. Only God can do that!

There is no one like God. That's something worth singing about! God likes to hear us sing praises to Him.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps people learn more about the one true God. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Form small groups of 10-12 children each.*
- *Lead each group to sit in a circle.*
- *Guide groups to say the Bible verse.*
- *Choose 1 child in each group to be “It.”*
- *Explain that as kids say the Bible verse, “It” will walk around the outside of the circle and gently tap each friend on the shoulder.*
- *Lead the child who is tapped when kids say the reference to get up and chase “It” around the circle.*
- *Explain that the chaser may return to his seat if he tags “It.” If the chaser does not tag “It,” he becomes the new “It.”*
- *Play as time allows.*
- **Leader note for younger preschoolers:** *Station an extra adult with each group.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- I am your God. Psalm 50:7 (*Paraphrase*)
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 (*CSB*)
- I am God, even thy God. Psalm 50:7 (*KJV*)
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 (*NIV*)
- I am God, your God. Psalm 50:7 (*ESV*)
- I am God, your God! Psalm 50:7 (*NKJV*)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)

Let's practice saying our Bible verse together. Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

Today you've heard that God can do all things. He can do this because He is the one true God. Nothing is too hard for God!

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide immediately following the Connection Point Bible Verse activity.)

Missionaries travel to all parts of the world to tell people about Jesus. Some missionaries tell people who live in the jungle about Jesus!

It is hard to travel in the jungle. Missionaries have to fly small airplanes, ride in boats, or walk. Let's play a game and pretend we are going into the jungle to tell about Jesus. *(Guide kids to stand. Teach the following actions for each mode of transportation.)*

- Airplane—Spread arms out and pretend to fly.
- Boat—Pretend to paddle a boat.
- Walk—March in place.

(Play a simple game by saying the words and leading preschoolers to do the motions. Start slowly. Gradually increase speed as kids become familiar with the game.)

(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)

Even though it is very hard to travel in the jungle, missionaries do not give up! They fly airplanes, ride boats, and walk long distances to tell people about Jesus! Let's pray for the missionaries as they travel.

God, thank You for sending missionaries to serve You in the jungles. Please keep them safe as they travel. We pray that many people will hear the good news about Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today we heard that God can do all things. Let's use our bodies to spell the word *ALL*. *(Demonstrate the following.)*

- Raise your arms and clap your hands together above your head to make the letter *A*.
- Raise your left arm straight up and extend your right arm to the side to make the letter *L*.

(Lead kids to say the Life Point, using the motions when saying the word "all." Repeat several times.)

(Show Life Point Slide.)

God can do all things. Let's say that together one more time: **"God can do all things."**

God is the one true God. He can do all things. There is nothing too hard for Him.

There is much more for us to learn about who God is. In fact, we can never know all there is to know about God! I hope you will come back next time so we can hear more about God.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*