

11.06 Joseph Is Ruler (Genesis 41:33–57) (This lesson might be combined with Lesson 11.05 or 11.08.)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) Flash cards from “Joseph,” Genesis Series 5, A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL
- (optional) Herein Is Love Commentary Series; *Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Nile River*: the longest river in the world; in Egypt this river provided fertile land
- *silo*: a tower or pit for grain storage

Scripture (NASB)

Genesis 41:46 Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. 47 During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. 48 So he gathered all the food of *these* seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. 49 Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring *it*, for it was beyond measure.

50 Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” 52 He named the second Ephraim, “For,” *he said*, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

53 When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, 54 and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55 So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do.” 56 When the famine was *spread* over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. 57 *The people of* all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

Introduction/Review:

Two full years after Joseph had interpreted the dream of Pharaoh’s cupbearer, Pharaoh had two troubling dreams. Finally, the cupbearer remembered his promise to remember Joseph. What did Pharaoh’s dreams signify? [They meant that Egypt would experience seven years of plenty, then seven years of famine.] To what position did Pharaoh appoint Joseph? [The person who would supervise collecting and storing one fifth of the harvests during the years of plenty.] Actually, Joseph held two titles, *vizier* (pronounced viz-EER), the highest official in Egypt, and *steward to the king*, one in charge of all his agriculture.* Joseph had had great training for this job as the steward of Potiphar’s household and fields.

With thirty-year-old Joseph’s promotion came honor in the form of a signet ring, fine linen clothing, a gold chain necklace, a chariot, and a wife.

Story:

Working

Joseph was a busy man. He didn't hang around the royal palace. Rather, he left Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt, gathering food for seven abundant years. In each city [point to various cities on the map found below] He gathered food from surrounding fields and stored it. Those who worked for him gathered so much grain that it was "like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure." How wise Joseph was; how blessed of the Lord!

Having children

By this wife, Joseph had two sons during the years of plenty; their names were Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh's name means "forgetting," for he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son's name, Ephraim, means "fruitful." Joseph gave this name because, as he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my trouble." Joseph obviously experienced the joy and peace that comes from God even in the midst of his affliction.

Selling grain

What happened after the seven years of abundant harvests? [The famine began.] This famine was widespread. It reached beyond Egypt into all the surrounding lands. However, Egypt, thanks to Joseph, was prepared.

When all the land of Egypt was famished and the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread, Pharaoh said to the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do." Joseph opened all those buildings in which he had stored grain and sold food to the Egyptians, and not to Egyptians only, for people came from many other areas to buy grain.

*Having both these positions at the same time was a rare occurrence in Egyptian history, but the best examples are seen in the Middle Kingdom (about 1850 B.C.), which is Joseph's time period (Charles Aling at <http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2010/04/09/Joseph-in-Egypt-Part-VI.aspx#Article>). Many scholars believe Joseph was Imotep, who built the step pyramid under Pharaoh Djoser of the third dynasty.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus
"Joseph no doubt was a type of the true Messiah, and in this of his exaltation and glory, and of that honour given him by all his saints who come to him, and receive from him all the supplies of grace" (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-37-7.html>).
- Students should work hard in school and in whatever situation they find themselves so that they may be prepared for whatever task God has in mind for them to do. Everything learned will help in some way. (Connect this point to the discussion of Joseph's preparation found in "Activities" below.)
- God can use people of all ages to do His work. Joseph was a young man compared to me [or someone you know]. Can He use young people like you? Yes. [Give a current illustration. Examples might include a child's calling 911 in an emergency or raising money for a special project.]

Activities:

- Play dough: five things with one taken to show 1/5; baskets of grain; barns or storehouses
- Discuss some qualifications Joseph needed for his job and the fact that God had prepared him for this task by his previous positions in slavery: ability in the Egyptian language (said to be a complicated language); understanding farming (planting and harvesting); knowledge of building storehouses; mathematical understanding to keep track of the amount of grain he had (and at the last couldn't count); supervisory skills (directing the people who worked for him); diplomatic skills (when selling the grain).

- Sing stanzas 1–5 of “Joseph,” found at Lesson 11.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- A website that gives background and photos of grain bins is <https://www.arkdiscovery.com/joseph.htm>.
- Review questions: (Game: Have some bird seed or popcorn seeds in a jar. For each correct answer, let a student place a teaspoon of seeds in another container. Have two such containers if playing with teams.)
 1. How old was Joseph at the time he began working for Pharaoh? [Thirty years old.]
 2. Instead of staying in the royal court, where did Joseph go? [Throughout all the cities of Egypt.]
 3. Why did Joseph go to these cities? [To build storehouses and collect grain.]
 4. How much grain did Joseph collect? [As much as the sand of the sea; so much it couldn't be counted.]
 5. What was the name of Joseph's first son? [Manasseh.]
 6. *Manasseh* means “forgetting.” Why did Joseph choose this name? [He said, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.”]
 7. What was the name of Joseph's second son? [Ephraim.]
 8. Since *Ephraim* means “fruitful,” why did Joseph choose this name? [He said, “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”]
 9. For how many years was there plenty in Egypt? [Seven years.]
 10. As the famine began, what did Joseph do for the famished people? [Sold them grain.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NASB)

- Genesis 41:51—[Joseph said,] “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.”

Handwork:

- Print one copy for each student of the barn found below. Provide pieces of paper cut to 5”x6” (the size of the door on the barn). Color the picture. Cut the door of the barn in half vertically starting at the bottom of the page. Cut the top of the door so that it opens into two doors. Put glue on the top and side edges of the 5”x6” paper. Glue to the top and sides on the back of the door(s). With the doors of the barn open, put glue in the shape of a mound on the background paper. Sprinkle bird seed or popcorn seeds on the glue.

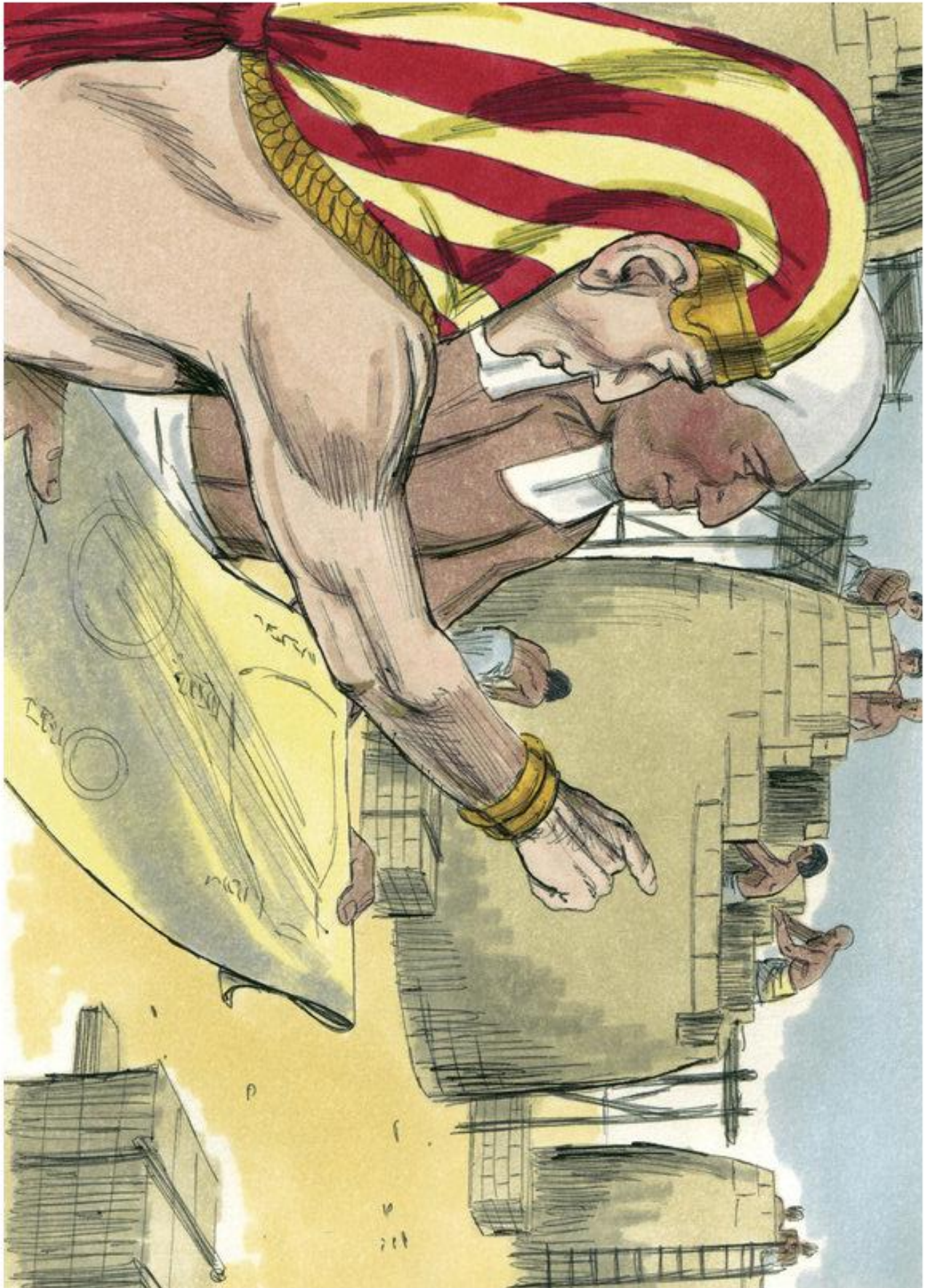


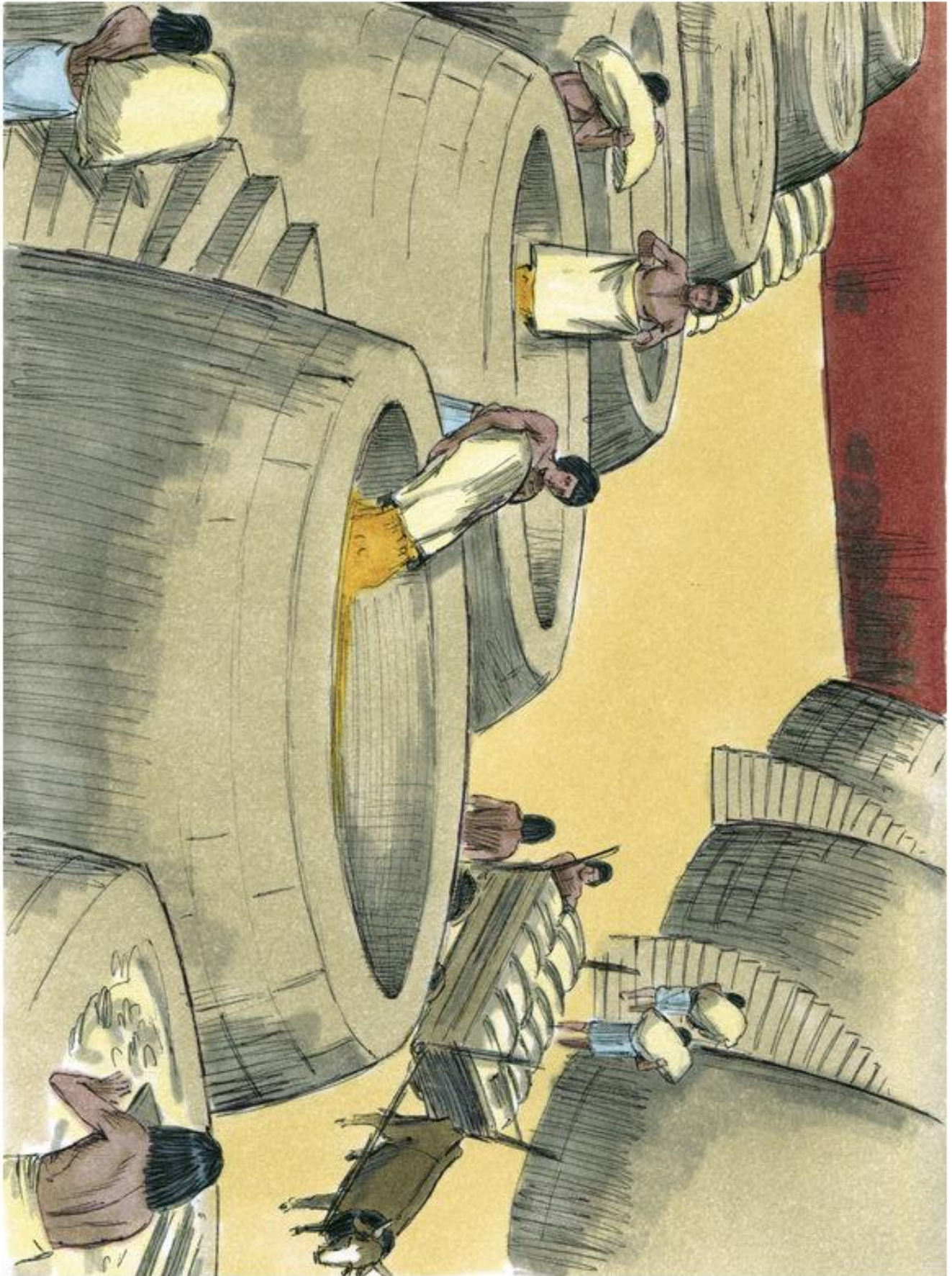
N i l e R i v e r

s i l o



<https://blog.generalmills.com/2018/01/our-progress-to-sustainably-source-wheat/>







<https://telledfu.uchicago.edu/news/book-chronicles-rise-urban-planning-ancient-egypt>

Seven grain silos were found in southern Egypt at Tell Edfu. The silos, made of mud bricks, vary from 18 to 22 feet in diameter and were probably at least 25 feet tall (<https://biblesciencguy.wordpress.com/2008/07/10/5-josephs-grain-silos-found-in-egypt/>).

Joseph gathered all the food of seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure.

(Genesis 41:48, 49)

Image is from <http://cliparting.com/free-barn-clipart-20730/>.

