Preschool–Grade 6

Pharaoh's Dream

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God knows everything, and God gives wisdom.
Bible passage: Genesis 41. Read Genesis 41:1–40 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace" *Genesis 41:16 (KJV)*.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Genesis 41.

1. Opening game: Fat Cows, Thin Cows (5 minutes)

Call out each one and do the motion with the kids. "Fat cows!" Puff your cheeks and hold your arms out wide. "Thin cows!" Squeeze your arms tight to your sides. "Full grain!" Stand up tall. "Thin grain!" Droop over like a dry plant. Call them faster and faster. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a king who dreamed about cows and grain."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Genesis 41. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Pharaoh was the king of Egypt. He had a dream (Genesis 41:1). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*
Seven fat cows came up out of the river (41:2). *(Hold up seven fingers. Puff your cheeks.)*
Seven thin cows came up and ate up the fat cows (41:3–4). *(Squeeze thin. Chomp, chomp!)*
Pharaoh dreamed again. Seven full ears of grain grew up (41:5). *(Stand up tall.)*
Seven thin ears came up and ate them up (41:6–7). *(Droop over.)*
Nobody could tell the king what his dream meant (41:8). *(Shake your head no.)*
They brought Joseph out of prison (41:14). *(Walk in place.)*
Joseph said, "It is not in me." God knows the answer (41:16). *(Point up.)*
Say it with me: "God knows the answer!"
Seven years of lots of food were coming (41:29). *(Rub your tummy: yum!)*
Then seven years of very little food (41:30). *(Make a sad face.)*
God gave Joseph a plan: save food in the good years (41:35–36, 39). *(Scoop and pile up the food.)*
The king made Joseph a ruler (41:40). *(Stand tall like a ruler.)*
Say it with me: "God gives wisdom!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did the king dream about? *(Seven fat cows and seven thin cows, seven full ears and seven thin ears, Genesis 41:2–7)*
2. Who knew what the dream meant? *(God did, 41:16, 41:25)*
3. What did God tell Joseph to save? *(Food, 41:35–36)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Joseph said, 'God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.'" Teach the motions: point up for "God," hold out both hands for "give," and cross your hands on your heart for "peace." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Genesis 41:16" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Seven Full Ears (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw one tall stalk with seven full ears of grain on it, and color the ears yellow. Count to seven together as they draw. While they color, ask: "Who knew what the dream meant? Who gives us wisdom?" Kids who finish early can play Fat Cows, Thin Cows again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for knowing everything.
Help me be wise like Joseph. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: in the Bible, "kine" means cows and "corn" means grain like wheat, so use those easy words in the story. Hold up seven fingers every time you say "seven." Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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