



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 23

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Joseph in Egypt

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Joseph in Egypt

Level C— Story Time with Jesus:

Joseph in Egypt

Level D— What Does it Actually Say?:

Joseph in Egypt

Level E— Bible Bits: Flowers/Topic Treasures—Empathy

Joseph in Egypt

Joseph worked hard in Egypt, and God blessed all that he did. No matter where he was he did his best.

Joseph had faith that God could tell people the meaning of dreams. One time Pharaoh called Joseph to tell him the meaning of an important dream that he'd had.

God was telling Pharaoh through the dream that they needed to prepare for a coming time when there wouldn't be enough food.

Joseph was then put in charge of storing up food during the plentiful years. Pharaoh made him one of the most important men in Egypt so he could do this special job.



Joseph in Egypt

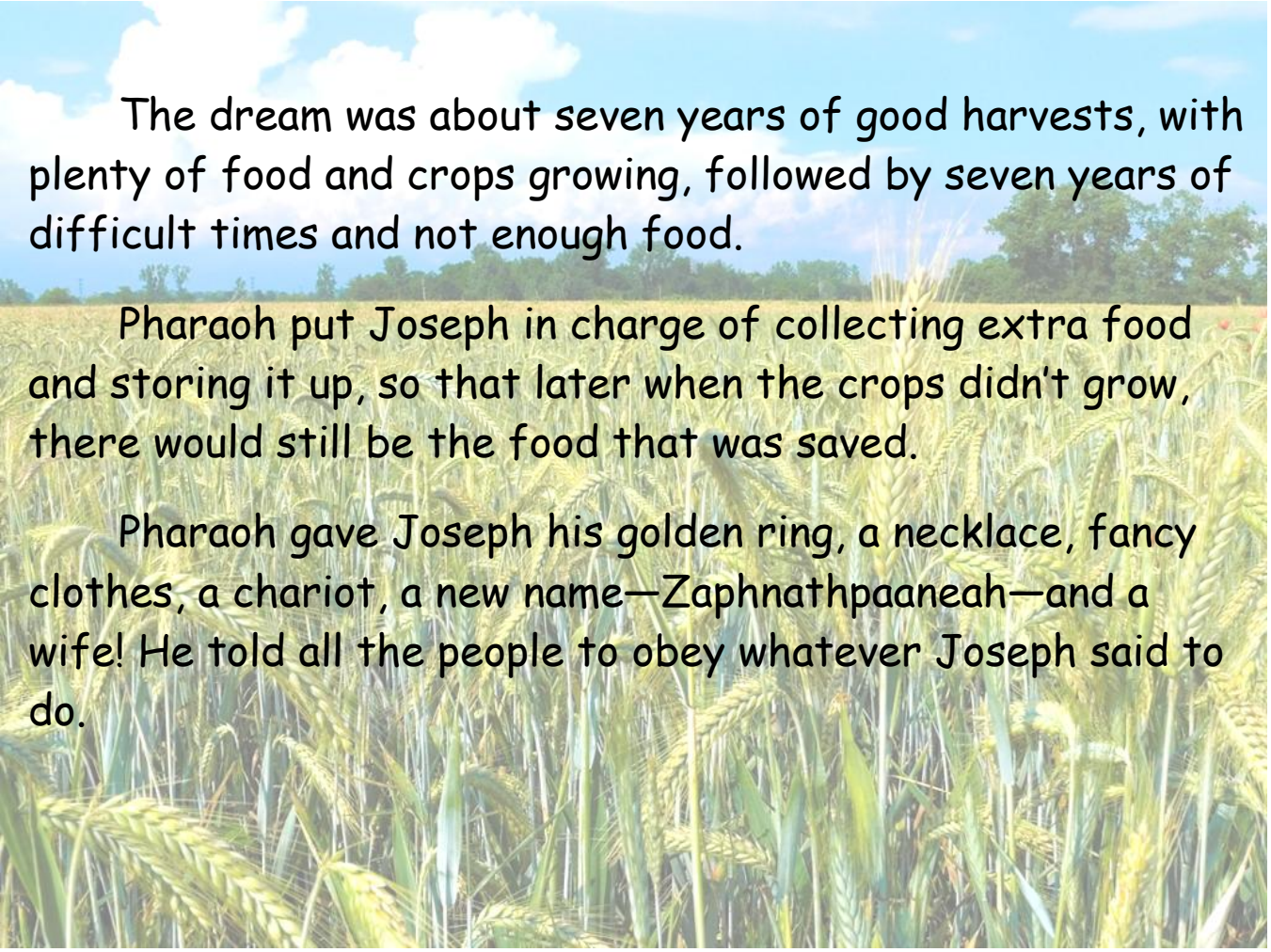
Joseph chose to be a good, hard worker, trustworthy, and he listened to God no matter where he was. God was pleased with this and made things go well for him as he worked as a servant.

Wherever he was, in whatever he was doing, he did his very best to work cheerfully and well, even though Joseph missed his father and family. People trusted him and could tell that God was helping him.

Joseph was kind and thoughtful, and took time to talk with people. One time some men had interesting dreams, and Joseph prayed and God told him the meaning of the dreams.

Then when Pharaoh had an important dream, Joseph was called to tell Pharaoh the meaning of it too. No one knew what it meant, but God knew, and told Joseph.





The dream was about seven years of good harvests, with plenty of food and crops growing, followed by seven years of difficult times and not enough food.

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of collecting extra food and storing it up, so that later when the crops didn't grow, there would still be the food that was saved.

Pharaoh gave Joseph his golden ring, a necklace, fancy clothes, a chariot, a new name—Zaphnathpaaneah—and a wife! He told all the people to obey whatever Joseph said to do.

Activity

*Dress up like Joseph was dressed after talking with Pharaoh, with a ring and fancy clothes. Make a chariot with a chair, adding big circles out of cardboard or pot lids for wheels.

Joseph in Egypt



A change in your life can happen overnight sometimes. You can be doing the same thing for a long time, and then all of a sudden, **BOOM**, everything changes. Things don't always look so great after a sudden change. But good things can happen like that too.

So if things aren't going that great, and it just seems like it will never end, don't give up hope—good things that affect your life positively, in a big way, can happen any time, when you least expect it to.

You never know what will happen that day when you wake up in the morning. But one thing you can be sure of is that if you are diligently working hard and doing what's right, in the best way—God's way—wonderful things will happen. Maybe today, maybe tomorrow, maybe a week from today, or maybe it'll happen a year or two from now. But don't give up hope and don't stop doing things in the best way you can. It happened to Joseph. Maybe it'll be your turn soon. Just keep doing your best, what you know to be right, and soon enough it will pay off.

Joseph had found himself suddenly in Egypt, away from his father and home. One day it seemed he was getting all the best things, and the next he was a servant, working very hard for a man called Potiphar. But even though it seemed wrong to Joseph to be there instead of back home, the Lord was with him, and he did the best work he could.

Potiphar noticed that everything Joseph did worked out well. The crops grew well and things flourished. He was so trustworthy that Potiphar put him in charge of his entire household and all his business. He wasn't lazy, and though it wasn't his favourite place to be, or his favourite job, he did the best he could and worked diligently. God blessed all that he did.

People noticed that things were different with Joseph around. He made a difference for the better.

No matter where you are or what happens to you, you can have a positive effect on the situation and the people around you, if you love God, pray, and let Him help you to make things better. Rather than just getting down and despondent about what's going on, or what you miss or how bad things seem for you, with you and God as a team you can have a positive effect on any situation, and good changes can happen.

Well, as nice as it might sound to say, "And they lived happily ever after," that's not what happened next. More sudden change was around the corner. God had new things for Joseph to learn, in a different and seemingly worse situation.



It's a good thing to remember that when things are going well, it's really God who is making it all work out well for you—and to thank Him for it, and to remind others that it's really Him doing it. So the next stage of Joseph's life gave him a fresh reminder of how things can change. Only God is constant and the same.

Things might be difficult for you, but things could also be worse. It's good to think about the good that you do have, reminding yourself how it's better than a situation someone else might be in.

So things seemed to change for the worse again for Joseph, and he learned a lot in the next part of his life. One day he was in charge of Potiphar's household and business, and the next day he was put in prison for no good reason. Potiphar's wife was unhappy with her life and the things she had. She then told others things about Joseph that were not true.

She wanted Joseph to help make her happy and fix the problem she was having with feeling she wasn't getting all that she wanted. She didn't like a lot of things that were happening in her life, and wanted more and better things.

She wanted Joseph to do sneaky, dishonest things in order to get the things she wanted, thinking that it would make her happier. But when Joseph refused, choosing to only do what he knew was right and best, she was upset and told people that Joseph did something wrong—that it was his idea to try to do something naughty that Potiphar wouldn't like.

Potiphar loved his wife and believed her made-up story. It made him upset to think that Joseph, who he trusted, might have done the things his wife falsely reported. He didn't want Joseph around anymore, so he was put into prison.

Joseph chose once again to make the best of the situation. Things probably looked like they couldn't get any worse. Has that ever happened to you? But when things look like they are at their worst, be encouraged, things can only get better then, right?

The man in charge of the prison was impressed with Joseph and saw he was a good man and did things well. Joseph was kind to people, and whatever he did God blessed. Pretty soon Joseph was well-trusted and put in charge of a lot of things. He didn't just think about the way he felt, or that he missed his father and home, but he talked to people, finding out what they were feeling, and tried to help encourage each one that he could.

It was his caring about others, as well as his ability to hear from God to get solutions and the right things to say to people, that eventually made the next positive turn of events take place. Joseph noticed that Pharaoh's butler and baker, who were also put in prison for a while, were feeling rather sad. They said it was because of the dreams they'd both had the night before. Thinking there was no one who could tell them what the dreams meant, they were despondent. Joseph had faith in God and knew that anything that people need to know, God could show and tell them.

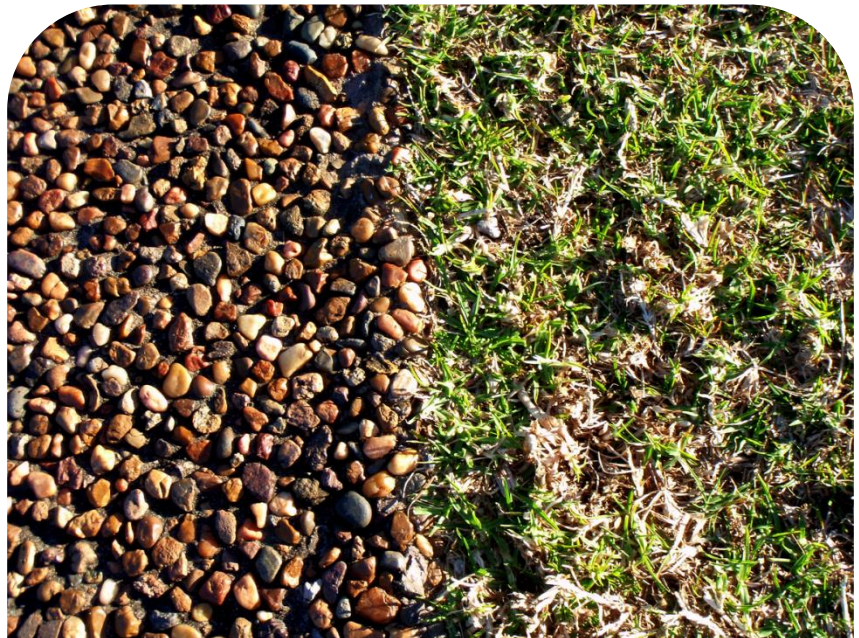
Joseph prayed and God showed him what the dreams meant. And amazingly enough, they came true! The dreams told of how long they'd be in prison, and what Pharaoh would decide about them. What Joseph said the dreams meant came true! In three days the butler and baker were released from prison. One got to go back to his job, and the other wasn't allowed to work for Pharaoh again.

Joseph's caring about them and getting the meanings of their dreams from God was a key to the next very good change that happened. No matter where you are, or what situation you are in, you can choose to show kindness and thoughtfulness to others; to pray and hear what God wants to tell you; to say what He wants you to say; and do your best in what you have to do.

Sometime later it was Pharaoh's turn to have some important dreams. He desperately wanted someone to tell him the meaning of them. It's a good thing that Pharaoh did try to find out, as they were dreams from God, telling him of what was to come. Something he needed to do something about. It really was very important. But who could help him? Pharaoh didn't know how to hear from God like Joseph could, and neither could his advisors. The butler remembered all of a sudden about what happened when he told Joseph his dream, while they were together in prison.

Now for the big and wonderful change! Can you imagine what it would feel like to be in a foreign country, without your family, to be in prison because people said untrue bad things about you, and then from one day to the next, to be in charge of the whole country, nearly as important as the king? Well, that's just what happened to Joseph. As soon as Pharaoh heard that there was a man who could possibly tell him the meaning of his dreams he wanted to see Joseph immediately!

So on a day that seemed very much like any other, down in that dreary prison, all of a sudden the king's men came and took Joseph out of prison. They helped him get all cleaned up, shaved, in nice clothes, and brought him to the king. Just like that. But if Joseph hadn't been



practicing all that time, day by day, to hear from God, to work well and wisely, he wouldn't have been ready and fit for what was needed.

Before he knew it he was standing before Pharaoh, telling him that God had given Pharaoh the dreams to tell him what was about to happen—dreams about seven good ears of corn and seven fat cows; dreams that ended with seven bad looking corn, and seven very skinny cows. There were to be seven very plentiful years in Egypt, followed by seven severe and difficult years of famine, where food would be hard to come by.

A plan and a man were what was needed. A plan to set aside extra food from the plentiful years to store up for the years of difficult times, when food wouldn't grow—and a man to make it happen and be diligent and in charge. A wise man was needed.

Pharaoh thought for a minute about who could do it. It didn't take long until he realised, "Oh, you! Why not you? I think you'd be the best one for the job!" And he chose the man standing in front of him, telling him God's words. That's how Joseph was chosen, and given the job and responsibility of ensuring that food would be available all throughout the time of famine.

It would be seven years until they would see it come to pass. But no time could be lost. They had to work like they knew it would happen—all because God said it would. Boy, were they glad when those difficult years did indeed happen, that they had believed God's warning, took diligent action, and weren't lazy or complacent, thinking everything would always be nice and fine and plentiful.

It probably looked like it would always be great, for a long, long time. But Joseph and Pharaoh chose to believe that forewarning, and Joseph worked hard, getting people to grow lots of crops and to give the extra to be stored up.

So on that day Pharaoh gave Joseph a big special job, Pharaoh's own ring from off of his hand, a golden necklace, fancy nice clothes, a royal chariot, a wife, and a new name: Zaphnathpaaneah. Pharaoh made Joseph the most important man in all the country, besides himself.

Everyone had to listen to him and obey him. And when the seven difficult years of famine and crops not growing happened, they were so glad they'd all listened, obeyed and did their best to work hard, save up and do just as God had told them to.

Joseph and his wife had two sons, and he felt so happy then with a family of his own, and keeping busy helping the king and the whole country. Good things can happen suddenly. And so can difficult times. But if you are praying, talking and listening to God, and doing your best, you'll be ready for it. You can help to make things better, no matter what kind of situation you find yourself in.

Let's Talk About It

*Is there something that is difficult for you right now, in your life or situation, that you wish could change? What can you say "at least" about, to remind yourself that things aren't worse?

*Just for fun, what would be the best and most fun thing you can imagine happening to you, all of a sudden, today? Remember to stay faithful to Jesus, day by day. You never know what good thing you may be surprised with!

Activity

*See if you can guess who in this story, might have said something like this:

"You can have my own ring!" (Pharaoh)

"I didn't do it!" (Joseph)

"You do such a good job! I can trust you!" (Potiphar)

"My friend and I wish we knew what our dreams meant." (Butler & Baker)

"Bring the corn over here!" (Joseph)

"You are the right man for the job!" (Pharaoh)

Joseph in Egypt



Connect and Communicate

*Say the sentence: "Jesus you are better than anyone on Earth because You ___", and have everyone say different things to fill in that blank.

Study Fun

Highlight: Where this passage says that the Lord was with Joseph.

Copy: On to a piece of paper, or a white or chalk board, a few of the interesting names of some of the characters this story talks about.

Count: The words that describe things going well for Joseph (bless, prosper, grace, favour, etc.)

Genesis

39:2 And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian [Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard].

39:3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

39:4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.



39:5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

39:19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

39:21 But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

39:23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.

41:1 And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed:

41:8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

41:9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

41:12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

41:15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

41:29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

41:30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

41:33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

41:34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

41:35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.



41:36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

41:39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

41:40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

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

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;

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.

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.

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.

41:46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.



Activity

*Play being "ruler" or "king" or "queen" or "president" and have different people tell them about a problem in the country. Have the "ruler" try to think of a solution, and what can be done about it.

Fountain of Faith

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



Psalms 84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Flowers

Praise

Psalms 104:33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

*Go through the alphabet, and say something less commonly said, that you can be thankful for. Say one thing for each letter of the alphabet.

Wild in Fields

Psalms 103:15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

Beautiful

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Appear in Spring

Song of Solomon 2:12 The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

The Lily

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:



The Rose

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

Woodwork of the Temple

1 Kings 6:35 And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

The Rose of Sharon

Song of Solomon 2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

Glory of Man

1 Peter 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.

Golden Candlestick

Exodus 25:31 And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same.

Rich Men

James 1:10-11 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.



Activity

*Press some flowers, with the goal of using them to make a "Thank you" card, or framing them for someone as a gift.



Topic Treasures

— Empathy

Study Fun

Highlight: The main verbs used, telling of things people did or should do. For example "remember" from Hebrews 13:3, and so forth.

Copy: A few phrases from these verses on to pieces of paper that tell of the kind actions of others. Put the little papers into a bag or hat. Play a game at the end where you pull them out one at a time, taking turns acting them out and guessing what is being acted out, that was written on that piece of paper.

Count: The examples given in these passages of ways empathy and compassion were shown.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Luke 10:33-34 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Exodus 2:6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Matthew 25:34-40 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew.14:14-16 And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

Mark 1:41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Psalms 145:9 The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.



Daily Diary

*Write down in your special diary something you're glad that the Lord promises you in His Word. Then write something that you want to promise to the Lord that you'll do (or not do), or be, or have, etc.

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