



Beautiful
BIBLE TREASURES
For Children

Lesson 24

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Food in Egypt

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Food in Egypt

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Food in Egypt

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Food in Egypt

Level E—Bible Bits: Wise Words/

Topic Treasures—Diligence

Food in Egypt

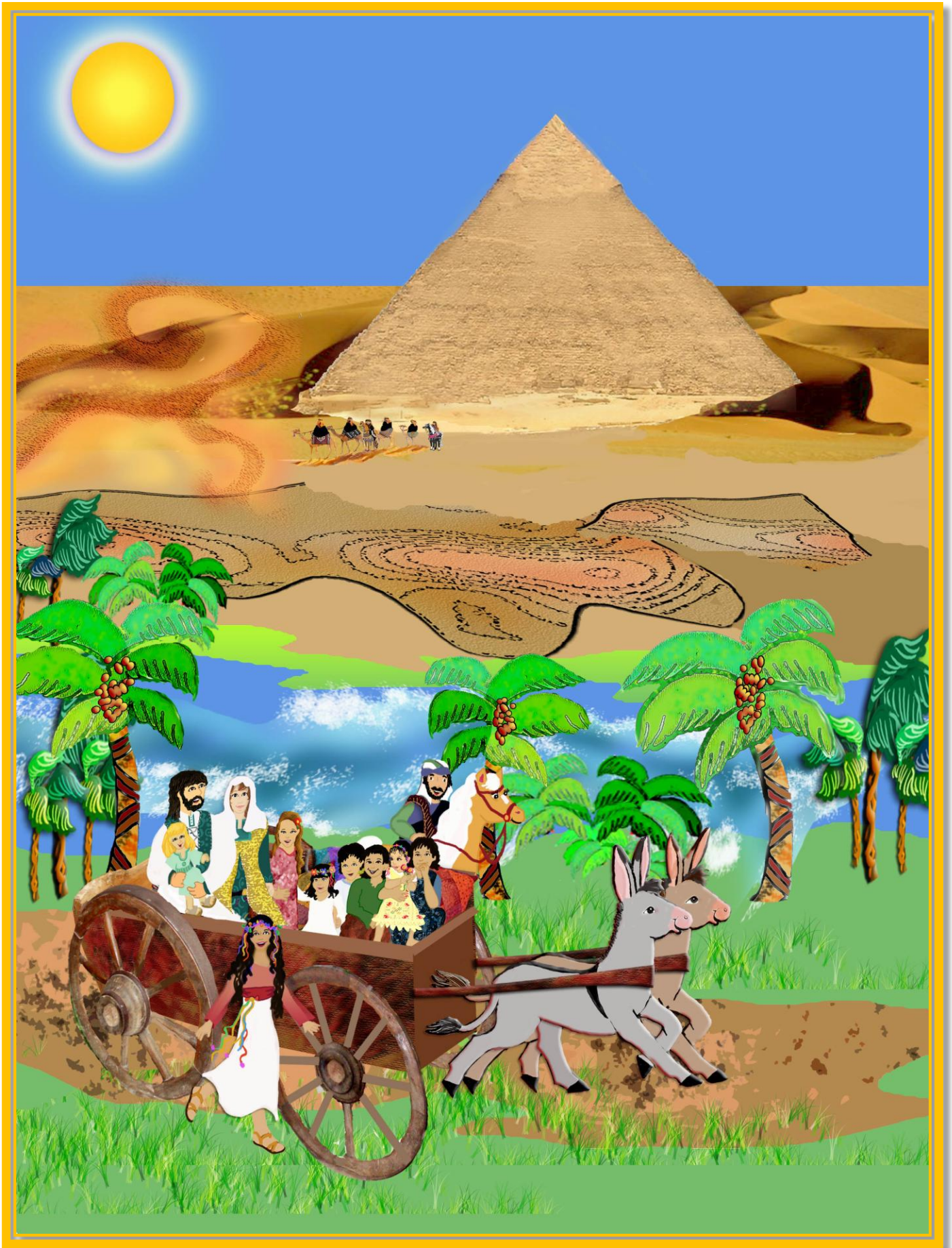
Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to get food, since that was the only place to get some, as it hadn't rained enough and crops weren't growing.

Joseph got to see his brothers again, and gave them the food they needed for their families. Joseph's brothers didn't recognise him, as he was dressed and spoke as an Egyptian.

Joseph then told his brothers who he was, and hugged them. They were glad Joseph forgave them for not treating him nicely before.

Joseph was glad that he had been in Egypt now, because he, his brothers and their families, as well as their father could now use the food he'd helped to store.

Pharaoh let Joseph's father, brothers and all their families come and live in Egypt where they could have all the food they needed. He sent wagons for them to use in their big move to Egypt.



Food in Egypt

Joseph was diligent and worked hard to store up the grain during Egypt's plentiful years. After seven years, just like God had said and told Pharaoh in a dream, there came a time of the crops not growing. But the people in Egypt had food they could buy, from the stored up grain. Good thing they had all obeyed and did what God told them to do.

It would have been easy to be lazy in the time when things were growing well and there was lots of extra food. But later on, when things were difficult, they would have regretted it.

It wasn't just in Egypt that crops hardly grew during the seven years of famine. Other places sorely lacked what they needed in the way of food too. Joseph's family—his father and brothers and their families—all started to run out of food as well. When news spread that there was food in Egypt, ten of the brothers went to buy food there.

Joseph noticed that his brothers had come, but they didn't recognize him. He looked very Egyptian in the way he dressed, and he even spoke the Egyptian language. The brothers left to go back home without knowing that the man they bought the grain from was actually Joseph!



While on their way home, they noticed that the money they'd used to buy the food was tucked away in their bags. Joseph had done that secretly. So they got their food for free!

The next time his brothers returned to Egypt to buy food again they also brought along Benjamin, and that made Joseph very happy! Finally Joseph told his brothers who he really was. They were shocked! They thought Joseph would be upset with them, but instead he forgave them!

Joseph and Pharaoh then invited them and their families and their father to come and live in Egypt, where there was enough food. Pharaoh sent wagons back with them to make their travel easier. At long last, when they returned, old father Jacob got to see his son Joseph again, and Joseph his father. They were so glad!

Joseph saw how all things had worked out well—even better for them all, than if he hadn't been in Egypt. It was difficult missing his family all those years, but now they were together again, and had all the food they needed. Good things came their way in the end. Joseph was glad he chose to keep following God's way, to listen to Him, and to be an honest, diligent worker.

Activity

*Make a picture using coloured paper, dried grains, cloth, grass, bits of this and that, to show Egypt, and the crops growing, and grain stored up, the pyramids, etc.

Food in Egypt



A time of famine, a time when the corn and other crops didn't grow, finally came. It happened just as Pharaoh had dreamt. Everyone was grateful that so much food had been stored up in Egypt during those years of plentiful harvests. But it wasn't just in Egypt that there was a lack of food. All the surrounding lands were struggling as well, and the people were very hungry.

Jacob and his sons and their families needed food. News spread that there was food in Egypt, and so off to Egypt the sons travelled—all except for the youngest. Benjamin stayed back with Jacob. He was Joseph's special brother—the only two children that Rachel had. Jacob still missed Joseph so much that he didn't want Benjamin to leave on a trip—just in case something happened to him, or he had to stay in Egypt.

By this time Joseph looked very Egyptian in the way he was attired, and he could speak the Egyptian language well too. So when his brothers come to buy food from Zaphnathpaaneah, the man who was in charge of all the saved corn in Egypt, they didn't recognize him at all. Although Joseph could see right away that they were his brothers, he kept it a secret for a while.

Joseph realised when his brothers bowed down before him—as he looked like a powerful Egyptian governor—that this was the meaning of those dreams he'd had so long ago. He'd dreamt that their sheaves came during a harvest and bowed down before his sheave.



It seemed like such an odd dream at the time, but he saw then his brothers bowing down to him as they came to get food. Sometimes things happen to us that we really don't understand at the time, but they all make sense later on, and we realise that it had helped to prepare us for what was to come.

At first it was hard for Joseph to let his brothers in on the secret—that was really him, that he was the one people were calling Zaphnathpaaneah. He looked different, he spoke a new language, and he had been through a lot of difficult times and hard work as a result of their actions towards him. Joseph realised then that it was ultimately God who made things work out the way they did, and that He placed him in charge, so his whole family could have food.

It's hard to go through difficult times, especially when you don't know or see the good that can come from it. But it's a wonderful moment when it all makes sense, and you can see that it has worked out better in the end. You are so glad for it after all, because it's helped you and others in some way that wouldn't have been possible if things were to have only been as you originally wished them to be.

Joseph saw the good in it all now, and showed his brothers love, kindness, and forgiveness in spite of all that had happened. He even returned to them the money they spent buying the grain, arranging to have it hidden in their sacks of grain.

The food they bought from Egypt didn't last forever, so after some time they were compelled to return to buy more. The second time the brothers came to Egypt, they brought Benjamin with them as well. Joseph had missed him so much that he insisted the next time they came that Benjamin, their youngest brother, needed to be with them.

Joseph was so glad to see him! He made a feast in his own house for all his brothers, though he continued to keep his identity unknown to them all. But when it was time for them to leave and his brother Benjamin was going back home with them, it was hard for him to see them go.

At last he told them all who he really was! It was very unexpected news for the brothers to hear. They had no idea what had become of

Joseph. They were worried what would happen. Would Joseph forgive them, or was he still very upset with them? To their relief, Joseph, who had chosen to see the good in the situation, forgave them and still loved them.

In fact he loved them all so much that Joseph and Pharaoh then invited them—all of them along with their families and father Jacob—to come and live there in Egypt where there was food.

The famine continued on for quite some time, and this way they didn't have to make the long trip again and again to get food for their families. Joseph made sure they all had what they needed while living close by.

It was a great, wonderful, exciting, change—on the move again! Wagons were sent from Pharaoh, to help load up their belongings and to carry the children, as well as their ageing father, all the way to Egypt. Hearing the news that he was going to get to see



Joseph again made father Jacob very happy. Suddenly he found new energy to travel yet again, even though he was very old and tired.

Isn't it funny how just thinking of something can change the way that you feel? Has that ever happened to you? Something can seem like a difficult job, and you feel too tired to do it, but then you hear that something is about to happen that you are really looking forward to, and all of a sudden you are buzzing with energy, and are able to do the job quickly.

Even the opposite can happen too. You'll be happily going along doing what you need to, and then a discouraging thought comes to your mind, or someone says some unkind words, and the more you allow yourself to think about it, the more it gets you down. You then find yourself unable to finish

the job very well. You feel tired, uninspired and want to quit—all because of a negative thought, or because of something someone said.

Thoughts are very important, as all these brothers found out. But words and thoughts of kindness and encouragement can be like fuel in a vehicle which help us all to get where we need to go much more quickly, with renewed energy.

It was a wonderful moment when Jacob finally got to see his son again, and Joseph his father. They hugged and cried for a long time. Though those years had been tough for all of them—they'd each learned many lessons, and in the end it worked out better than if things had only gone seemingly well for them.

Difficult times come to everyone, but if we choose to believe that good will come in the end, if we are following and trusting the Lord and having faith in Him, it will not only help to make things easier for us but also help to bring good things our way.

God knows what is happening to each one, and those who love and trust Him, and try to do the things He asks, will find that in the end things are much better than they would have been if things had only been easy, and only as they originally wanted them to be. God has a way of turning things around for good for those who love and obey Him, no matter what ends up happening, no matter what difficulty or hardships they face.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Let's Talk About It

*Talk about times when you prayed, and the Lord supplied what you needed.

*Have you ever had to be away from someone you loved for a long time? What did you feel like when you got to see someone again after being apart for a while?

Activity

*Make paper finger puppets of people and objects that this story talks about, and tape them on to sticks or straws. Make a little "puppet show" retelling the story. (Paper puppet piece ideas: Joseph, brothers, wagons, old Jacob, children, flocks of sheep, donkeys, bags of grain, Pharaoh, etc.)

Fountain of Faith

Psalms 103:11

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.



2Samuel 22:31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.

Food in Egypt



Connect and Communicate

*Get very quiet, and see what verse or thought Jesus wants to tell you or remind you about. Take turns saying what came to mind as you stopped to listen.

Study Fun

Discover: How much food did it say was collected and counted from the plenteous years of gathering the extra food that was grown? How many grains of uncooked rice are in one tea spoon/tablespoon?

Underline: All the words that describe the difficult years. (Example: famished, sore, etc.)

Define: Posterity, nourish.

Genesis

41:47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

41:48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

41:49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

41:50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

41:53 And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

41:54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

41:55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

41:56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

41:57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

42:1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?

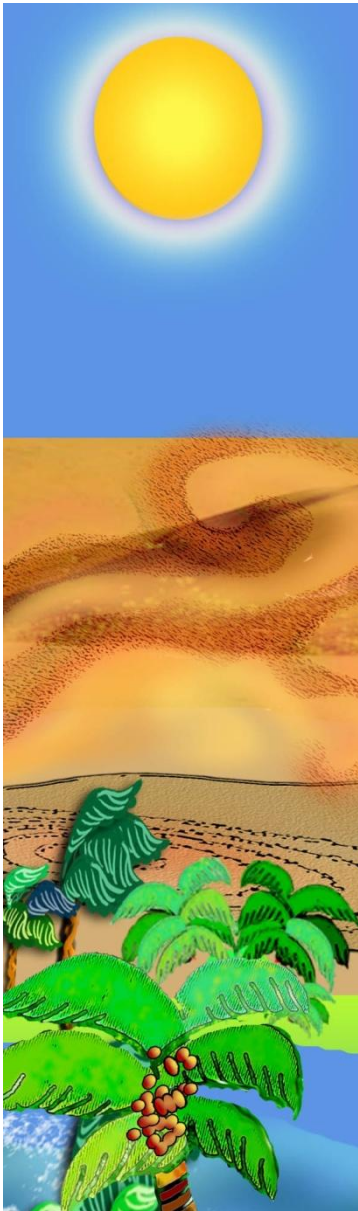
42:2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.



42:3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

42:6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

42:8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.



45:3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

45:7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

45:8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

45:9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

45:10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

45:11 And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

45:15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

45:16 And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants.

45:17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan;

45:18 And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.

45:19 Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

45:20 Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is your's.

45:21 And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way.

45:25 And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

45:26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

45:27 And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived:

45:28 And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.



Activity

*Learn about healthful food and a good balanced diet. Make a chart with pictures (drawn, or glued on) to show what is best to eat, and how much of the various basic food groups and water is good to have each day. (Veggies, fruit, protein, starch, water, etc.)

Wise Words

Prayer

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

*Each one whispers to the person on their right a topic to pray for, and a place to go and quietly pray for it, for a few minutes.

1 Kings 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

Proverbs 10:11a The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life.

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom.

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

James 3:13 Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalms 141:3 Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

Activity

*Action quiz: Ask questions about the passages read—those that can be answered with an action (a verb demonstrated or the answer otherwise shown using only gestures.)



Topic Treasures — Diligence

Study Fun

Discover: What should people be like if they want to be trusted with important jobs and responsibilities?

Underline: The benefits and rewards given to those who work well and diligently.

Define: Scarlet, fervent, decently, and slack.

Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.



Proverbs 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 18:16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Matthew 24:45-47 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Exodus 35:10 And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the Lord hath commanded.

Exodus 35:25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen.

Nehemiah 4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.



Daily Diary

*Write a verse or a phrase from the passages above that you'd like to remember the next time you have a job to do, or if there is something you are asked to help with.