

Sept 13, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
True faith will obey without delay

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**  
O give us strength to quench the urge To do things our own way; And help us, Lord, to heed Your Word, Its precepts to obey. —Sper

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him*  
(Matt 3:15 NKJV)  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 04, 2005)*

**Series: Love For One Another**

**UNIT: Struggles with Love**

### NEXT WEEK

**Victorious Love**  
(Gen 42:6-25)

## **Obedient Love** **Genesis 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52**

### **Lesson Background and Introduction**

Immigrants face a host of difficulties when settling into new countries. Cultural differences can be the biggest hurdles to being accepted in a community, a neighborhood, or by coworkers. Fear of losing that identity can be isolating. One way self-identity is threatened is by rejecting the religion of the immigrant's country of origin. Today's lesson features a man who faced a similar challenge: Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt, adopted various facets of Egyptian culture as his own while being most resistant to changing his "one God" worldview, known as monotheism. Joseph looked, acted, and spoke like an Egyptian most of the time. But he did not lose his sense of dependence on God in a pagan culture. Whether in prison or in power, Joseph remained God's man—obedient, faithful, and willing to give God the credit. The God whom Joseph served and honored is the God we serve and honor today. No matter the circumstance, He does not change (Malachi 3:6). He remains in control. Whether we find ourselves in a pit or a palace, He is there. Joseph demonstrated radical faith in his God. Even though God might have seemed far away during the 13 years of slavery, God continued to give Joseph evidence that he had not forgotten the imprisoned man. How does your life witness to the same truth?

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Pharaoh's Dreams** - Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt had two perplexing dreams. By the sovereign grace and providence of God, Joseph found himself in a position to interpret the ruler's dreams. Through Pharaoh's dreams, God warned this wayward nation that they were on the brink of total disaster. Pharaoh's dream revealed that Egypt would enjoy seven prosperous, abundant years followed by seven years of a severe famine. God spoke through Joseph warning the Pharaoh to take immediate action to save his people.

**Choosing a Leader** - Joseph's warnings generated fear and worry among the Pharaoh and his servants. He asked for Joseph's advice. He instructed Pharaoh to appoint a knowledgeable person with practical wisdom to collect food in the time of plenty and store it up for the season of famine. However, what individual in Egypt could organize such a massive undertaking? Pharaoh could see Joseph's God was working through him. Joseph demonstrated abilities that far exceeded the local magicians. Pharaoh consulted with his servants, and they agreed—they needed Joseph to be the leader to carry out this plan. Pharaoh appointed Joseph second in command. He would speak as the Pharaoh's mouthpiece; the people under Pharaoh now were required to respect Joseph and follow his orders.

**Obedience** - Before the years of famine, Joseph married one of the Egyptian priest's daughters, Asenath, and she bore him two sons. Joseph named his oldest son Manasseh, which means "forgetfulness," showing that God was no longer allowing Joseph to recall his previous misfortunes. Joseph's other son's name, Ephraim (meaning "fruitful"), meant that God arranged for Joseph to be fruitful or prosperous in this foreign land. The names were Hebrew, not Egyptian, indicating Joseph had not put aside his heritage or God. Though at one point Joseph was in a pit, sold away by his brothers, and unjustly accused and imprisoned, God still controlled Joseph's life—preserving him for this season. He paved the way as Joseph obediently followed.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Obedience in Interpretation of Dreams (Gen 41:25-33)**

*Interpretation requires revelation from God (25)*

- Revelation through Jesus (John 14:9-10)
- Revelation of God's will (Eph 1:9)
- Revelation through the prophets (Rom 16:25-26)
- Revelation through the Church (Eph 3:10)
- Revelation of righteousness through faith (Rom 3:21-22)
- Revelation of God's wrath (Rom 1:18-20)

*Interpretation of good times (26, 29, 30)*

- Good times are promised for those who trust in God (Prov 28:25)
- Good times are promised for those who abide in God (John 15:7)
- Good times through well-being (Ps 35:27)
- Good times through righteousness (Ps 92:12-14)
- Good times through delighting in God's word (Ps 1:1-3)
- Good times through remaining in Jesus (John 15:3-5)
- Good times into old age (Isa 46:4)
- Good times through the fear of the Lord (Ps 128:1-2)

*Interpretation of bad times (27, 31, 32)*

- Bad times are to purify (Job 23:10)
- Bad times are to influence obedience (Ps 119:67)
- Bad times are to aid in achieving eternal glory (2 Cor 4:17)
- Bad times are to be expected in this life (1 Peter 4:12)
- Bad times refine (Ps 66:10)
- Bad times prove faith genuine (1 Peter 1:7)
- Bad times to show what's in the heart (Deut 8:2)

*Wisdom is needed for good leadership (33)*

- Wisdom is needed because God gives it generously (James 1:5)
- Wisdom is needed because God's word contains it and through obedience (Deut 4:5-6)
- Wisdom is needed because God can fill with all knowledge, wisdom and understanding (Col 1:9)
- Wisdom is needed because God's wisdom is pure and full of mercy (James 3:17)
- Wisdom is needed because God teaches it to those seek it (Ps 90:12)
- Wisdom is needed because it is a blessing (Prov 3:13)

### **Obedience Led to Pharaoh's Favor (Gen 41:37-40)**

*Favor based on the goodness of the plan (37)*

- Plans are good when sought through those whom God has given an instructed tongue (Isa 50:4-5)
- Plans are good when sought through advice at the right time (Prov 15:23)

Plans are good when there is care from whom advice is provided (Ps 1:1)

Plans are good when there is dependence on more than one person's advice (Prov 15:22)

Plans are good when there are many godly advisers (Prov 15:22)

Plans are good when there is commitment to God (Prov 16:3)

*Favor based on the guidance of the Holy Spirit (38-39)*

Relying on the Holy Spirit through having the Mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:12-16)

Guidance that is part of God's plan for one's life (Jer 29:11)

Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)

Guidance that is not under the law (Gal 5:18)

Guidance that represents one is a child of God (Rom 8:14)

*Favor led to leadership (40)*

Leaders must focus on God's Word in order not to error (Matt 22:29)

Leaders must focus on God's Word so that they can be confirmed by the followers (Acts 17:11)

Leadership means being entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)

Leadership means being blameless so as to encourage godliness (1 Thess 2:10-12)

Leadership means being faithful because of being given a trust (1 Cor 4:2)

Leadership means having integrity (Titus 2:7-8)

### **Love Leads to a Family (Gen 41:50-52)**

*Family that relieves troubles (50-51)*

Relieves troubles through the favor of God (Prov 18:22)

Relieves troubles through answered prayer (1 Sam 1:20)

Relieves troubles because families are a reward (Ps 127:3)

Relieves troubles through the family bringing joy (Prov 27:11)

Relieves troubles through rejoicing in the wife and family (Prov 5:18)

*Family that provides fruitfulness (52)*

Fruitfulness through the blessings of God (Gen 28:3)

Fruitfulness through a large family (Ps 128:3)

Fruitfulness through obedience to God (Deut 28:2-4)

Fruitfulness through righteousness (Isa 3:10)

Fruitfulness through faithfulness of service (1 Cor 15:58)