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A Brand-New World

GENESIS 1:1-26

God's Spirit watched over the earth and moved over the water. God said, "Let there be light." What do you think happened? Right away there was light. The light was daytime, and the dark was nighttime. That was the very first day there ever was.

The next day, God made something else. He made the sky with clouds above the earth. That was the second day of God's work.

On the third day, God talked to the water that covered the earth. He said, "Move together into one place." The waters moved into the ocean, leaving dry land. God was pleased with the work He was doing. God said to the land, "Grow green plants and flowers and trees," and it did. God liked His grass and flowers and trees.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." God made a big bright light in the sky for the day. Do you know what it was? The sun! He made a smaller light in the sky for the night. What was that? The moon! God sprinkled the night sky with many stars. God liked His beautiful lights.

On the fifth day, God made animals that swim and animals that fly. God watched His fish wiggle in the water and His birds soar through the air. God liked His fish and birds, and He blessed them.

Do you ever wake up in the night and look around? All you can see is blackness. That's what it was like before God made the world with its grass and trees, birds and animals, and blue sky.

God was thinking of a wonderful plan. He planned to make a beautiful place called the earth. The earth is where we live now. God made the earth to be a home for us.

On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be animals on the dry land." God watched as all kinds of animals crawled, walked, jumped, and explored the new world. God liked His animals, and He blessed them.

God had made a lot of things in six days, but He was not quite done yet. God wanted to make a person, someone who would love Him, talk with Him, and be His friend.

- » What was it like before God made everything?
- » How did God make the different parts of His world?
- » What is your favorite thing God made?

Hard Times for Joseph

GENESIS 37:25-36; 39-40

Do you remember how Joseph's brothers shoved him into a deep hole? After that, they sat down to eat. While they were eating, they saw people coming on camels. Joseph's brother Judah had an idea. "Let's sell Joseph to these people," he said.

The brothers agreed with Judah's plan. They gave Joseph to the people on camels, and the people on camels paid the

brothers twenty silver coins. The camel drivers took Joseph far away to Egypt.

Joseph's brothers killed a goat and put the blood on Joseph's colorful robe. Then they took it home and showed it to their father. They said, "We found this robe. Is it Joseph's robe?"

Jacob knew that it was Joseph's robe. He saw the blood on it. He was sure that Joseph had been attacked and killed by a wild animal. "I will never be happy again," Jacob said. The brothers knew what had really happened to Joseph, but they did not tell.

In Egypt, Joseph became a slave. He worked for a man named Potiphar. Joseph had no

friends or family to be with him in Egypt, but he had God. God helped Joseph do a good job. His master Potiphar liked Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of all the other workers in the house and in the fields.

Then Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph. She said that Joseph had done something wrong. But that was not true. Potiphar became angry with Joseph because of the lie. He put Joseph in prison.

The man in charge of the prison gave Joseph jobs to do. God helped Joseph to do good work in prison. The prison keeper became Joseph's friend.

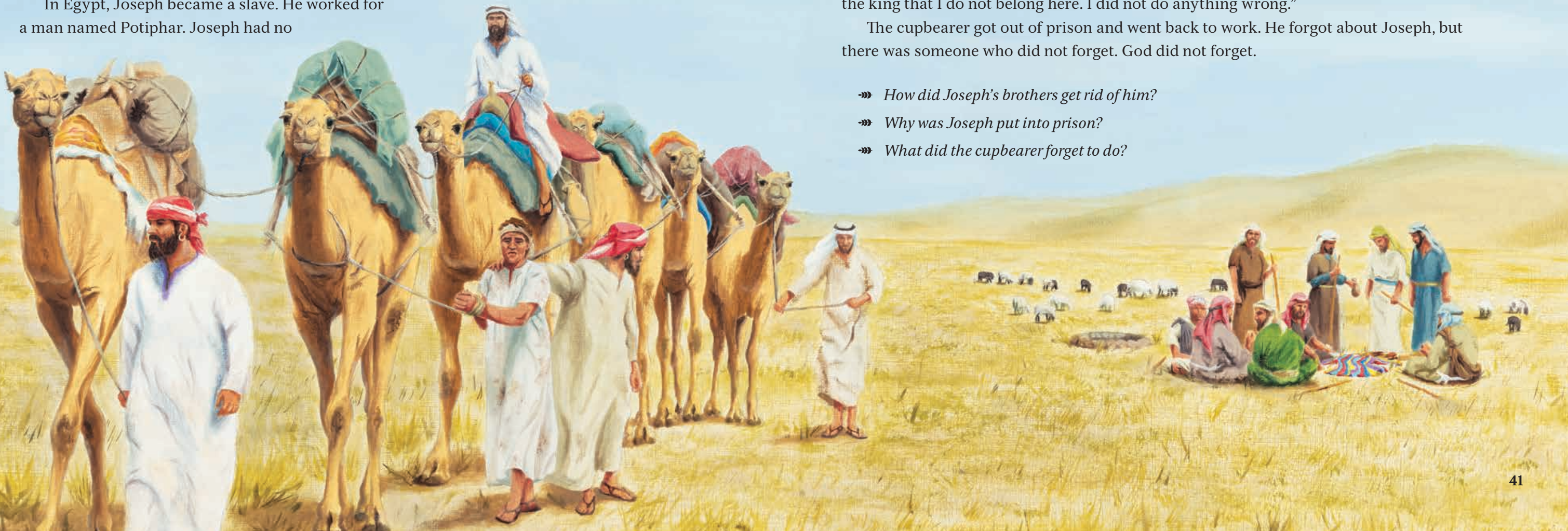
While Joseph was in prison, two of the king's workers were put in prison too: the man who baked for the king, and the man who brought the king his drinking cup. One night both workers had dreams. They dreamed about baskets and birds and bread and grapes.

The workers did not know what the dreams meant, but God helped Joseph understand them. The dreams meant that the man who served the king his cup would soon be able to leave the prison and go back to work for the king. But the baker would be killed.

Joseph said to the cupbearer, "Please remember me when you are out of prison. Tell the king that I do not belong here. I did not do anything wrong."

The cupbearer got out of prison and went back to work. He forgot about Joseph, but there was someone who did not forget. God did not forget.

- » How did Joseph's brothers get rid of him?
- » Why was Joseph put into prison?
- » What did the cupbearer forget to do?



Tired of Manna

NUMBERS 11

The people of Israel were on the way to the new land God had promised them. Every day they ate manna. Do you remember where the manna came from? God sent the manna early in the morning while it was still dark. The people could pick it off the ground and use it to make food.

But the people were tired of eating manna. They remembered that in Egypt they had eaten fish, cucumbers, melons, and other food. The people complained to Moses about not having meat to eat. “Why did we ever leave Egypt?” they said.

Moses became upset. He said to God, “Why did You give me the job of leading these people? Are they my children? Where could I find meat for them to eat? This job is too hard for me. If this is how You are going to treat me, I want to die.”

God cared about His people. He cared about Moses. God said, “Tomorrow there will be meat for you. You will eat it for a long time—not for just one day or five days or ten days or twenty days. You will eat it for a whole month, until you are sick of it, because you wished you could go back to Egypt.”

Moses could hardly believe there would be enough meat for thousands and thousands of people to eat for a whole month. Where would it come from? He asked God, “Will whole flocks of sheep and herds of cows be killed for meat? Will someone catch all the fish in the sea for the people to eat?”

God said, “Have I become weak? You will find out whether or not I can do what I say.”

That evening God made the wind blow. The wind blew birds called quail around the camp of Israel. There were lots and lots of quail. The quail were so close to the ground that the people could reach out and catch them with their hands.

The people were so busy catching birds that they did not go to bed. They chased the birds in the dark. They worked all night and all the next day to catch lots of quail to eat.

But God was angry with the people because they wanted to go back to Egypt so they could have different kinds of food. God made some of the people get sick and die because they were not content.

- » What were the people tired of eating?
- » What did God send for the people to eat?
- » Why was God angry with the people?

