



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

God's provision for the future



Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us see that we can use our own resources to plan for the future



Pharaoh's dreams

Read Genesis 14:17-41 where Pharaoh's dreams are described. Joseph explains that God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do (14:25-32).

Read verses 33-41. Note the steps involved in Joseph's recommendations. This plan seemed good to Pharaoh and all his officials, though storing sufficient grain to last a whole nation for seven years is a massive undertaking.

Read Genesis 41:46-49. Joseph is chosen for the position. Observe what actions Joseph takes in the years when there is plenty of food.

Read Genesis 41:53-57. This is the time when the famine happens. Many lives were saved through God's merciful warning, Joseph's openness to God and Pharaoh's correct response. If we work together with people around us we can help our communities to develop and be strong.



Key points

We already have resources around us that God wants us to use wisely – not only to provide for today, but to work with others to plan for our future.



Questions for discussion

- What happened in Pharaoh's dream (14:17-24)?
- What does the passage say is going to happen?
- Why is the dream given in two forms (verse 32)?
- What actions does Joseph recommend in verses 33-41?
- What qualities are we told the person in charge of helping everyone prepare for the coming famine needs (verses 33, 38, 39)?
- How widespread was the famine?
- Are you open and responsive to God?



Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene



Reflection

Think about whether you are wisely using all that God has given you to provide for the future for yourself, your family, your community and others.



Notes

This Bible study is adapted from one first published in Tearfund (2001) A PILLARS guide: *Improving food security* http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/improving_food_security/

Related tools

- A1 – Revealing fatalistic beliefs about disasters: information for facilitators [*A1: Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – The need to prepare - reducing the effect of disasters [*A2: Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – Disasters ball game - understanding shocks and stresses [*A2: Disaster risk management-2*]
- B – Fatalism - can we avoid disasters? (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-1*]
- B – Noah - lessons in preparedness (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-2*]
- B – Preparing for disaster (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-3*]
- B – God of justice and mercy (Bible study) [*B: Disaster risk management-4*]

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