

Dream Charades

This activity reviews the six dreams in the Joseph series, dreamed by Joseph, the butler, the baker, and Pharaoh.

Students will work in teams. Teams will take turns choosing a *Dream Summaries* card out of a bowl and acting it out as a charade (i.e. silently). The team watching will answer questions on a *Questions* card. Once all the dreams have been acted out, the group will review the dreams and answers.

Materials needed: pens or pencils, bowl for folded charades

Preparation: Cut the cards on the following pages apart. Fold the *Dream Summaries* so the text is not visible and put them in a bowl.

1. We are going to review the dreams in the Joseph story by acting them out as charades. While one team acts out a dream, the other team will complete a *Questions* sheet. You will need to know who is dreaming, who the dream is told to, what the dream means, and how people feel about the dream.
2. Divide students into teams. Choose a team to start.
3. Invite the first team to pick a *Dream Summaries* card out of a bowl. Give the team a minute to plan a charade.
4. While the team is working out their approach, distribute pens or pencils and copies of the *Questions* cards for the other team members to guess the dream answers as a group.
5. The first group acts out a charade. Once the charade is finished and the other team has answered as many questions as they can, switch roles so that the team that was watching now acts.
6. Continue until all the dreams have been acted out.
7. Gather students as a group. Use a complete copy of the *Dream Summaries* as an answer sheet.
8. *Optional*: if time allows, ask students to extend their answers to how each dream relates to their lives.

Dream Summaries

Dream Charades Joseph's First Dream

Genesis 37

Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to his brothers.

He said, "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright, and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

His brothers hated him for his dreams and for his words.

Dream Charades Joseph's Second Dream

Genesis 37

Joseph dreamed another dream.

"This time the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

He told it to his father and his brothers. His father rebuked him and said, "Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

Joseph's brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Dream Charades The Butler's Dream

Genesis 40

The chief butler told his dream to Joseph.

"Behold in my dream a vine was before me, and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes. Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

And Joseph said, "The three branches are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place."

Dream Charades The Baker's Dream

Genesis 40

The chief baker told his dream to Joseph.

"I had baskets with holes on my head. In the uppermost basket there were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

And Joseph said, "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh."

Dream Charades Pharaoh's First Dream

Genesis 41

Out of the river came seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows.

In the morning Pharaoh called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them.

Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dream, and Joseph told him the meaning.

Dream Charades Pharaoh's Second Dream

Genesis 41

Suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good. Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads.

In the morning Pharaoh called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them.

Then Pharaoh told Joseph his dream, and Joseph told him the meaning.

Dream Questions

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1. Who was dreaming?
2. How did people feel about the dream?
3. Who did the dreamer tell his dream to?
4. What did the dream mean?

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