

INTRODUCTION

A simple definition of stewardship is the responsibility and care for the resources God has given us for His purposes in the world. Resources include creation, gifts and talents, money, time, and the Gospel.

In this issue of the Parent Connect, we learn that saving for a rainy day is not just a good idea, but it's a concept outlined in the Bible.

In Genesis 41, we learn about Joseph, a young man in prison, and his gift of interpreting dreams. Joseph was in prison for a crime he did not commit, but he was a faithful servant of the Lord and always obeyed Him, so God watched over him as he was locked away. God allowed for those around him—jail staff and fellow prisoners—to like and respect him.

During Joseph's imprisonment, the king of Egypt, known as the Pharaoh, had a dream. He was so confused by the dream and he wanted to understand the dream's meaning. None of his wisemen could figure it out. A servant remembered Joseph and told the Pharaoh of his gift. The Pharaoh immediately asked for Joseph to be brought to him.

The Pharaoh described his dreams to Joseph. In one dream, seven healthy cows were eaten by seven unhealthy ones. In another dream, seven healthy stocks of grain were eaten by seven unhealthy stocks of grain. Joseph explained that the dreams meant there would be seven healthy years of harvest with plenty of food and grain for people to eat, but then there would seven

years of famine. The famine would be so bad that people would forget about the seven good years, the famine would ruin the country.

Joseph told the Pharaoh this would happen soon, and that the Pharaoh should pick a wise, intelligent man to be in charge of Egypt. It was obvious to the Pharaoh that the Spirit of God was in Joseph, so he chose Joseph to oversee Egypt.

Joseph asked all the Egyptians that during the seven good years, they give him a portion of the food they grow. The food would be stored so during the seven bad years, there would be food and they would not go hungry.

God asks His children to follow this same principle. In Proverbs 21:20, it says, *"Wise people save the nice things they have. Fools use up everything as soon as they get it."* God asks that we be wise and save for the future. We should not put all our trust in money because we trust God, but instead of spending all the money and resources we have during the good times, we should save. This way, when the bad times come, we can survive and even thrive because we are prepared.

BIBLE TRUTH

This lesson teaches us that when we have extra money or other resources, we should save them instead of spending them to prepare for potential hard times.

SCRIPTURE **READ: Genesis 41**

- Why was Joseph in prison?
Why did God watch out for him?
- What did the Pharaoh's dreams mean?
- What did Joseph tell the Pharaoh to do?
- How did Joseph plan for the years of famine?



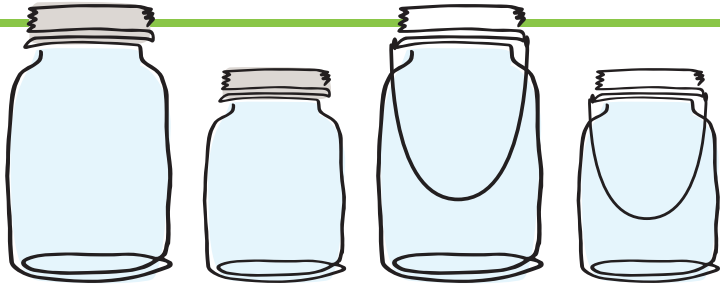
ACTIVITY **ITEMS REQUIRED:**

- 3 or 4 mason jars
- Label for each jar
- Paint, markers, craft supplies to decorate jars

- Decorate and label each jar. Label one God, one savings, one spending. If you'd like, label a fourth jar for college fund.
- Each time your child receives money from chores or birthday gifts or a part-time job, have them divide the money they receive into their jars. If you don't want to use real money, use money from a game or plain sheets of paper to teach the same lesson.
- The parent can set the percentages for each jar, or coach the child. Remember, 10% is what we are asked to give back to God.
- Be sure to praise them each time they put money in their jars—encouragement goes a long way!

APPLICATION

- How does it feel to save money instead of spending it?
- Were you able to save the money in your spending jar for a big purchase?
- Why do you think it's important to save? Why do you think it's important to give back to God?



DID YOU KNOW?

A young Albanian girl grew up in southeast Europe. She loved God and at age 12 she decided she wanted to serve God with her life. The young lady made the commitment to become a nun.

Since English was not her first language, she went to a convent in Ireland to learn the language and then, in 1929, she sailed to India and began her life as a nun. She started as a teacher, but she was disturbed by the poverty of the people living in her community. She left the school and started a group of nuns known as the "Missionaries of Charity."

She moved out of the convent and lived among the poor whom she served. She received basic medical training and ventured into the poorest communities to begin ministry. In her words, the group was tasked to care for "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who felt unwanted, unloved, uncared for—anyone who was a burden to others and shunned by everyone."

Even though she started her ministry in Calcutta, it soon spread throughout India, and eventually, around the world. Now, the group operates 600 missions, schools, and shelters in 120 countries. She was named Anjeze Gonxhe when she was born. You may know her as Mother Teresa!

One life submitted to God can make a world of difference!

