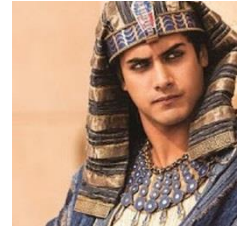


**CLASS:** SS2  
**SUBJECT:** CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
**TOPIC:** JOSEPH AS A LEADER  
**WEEK:** 2  
**TERM:** SECOND



## LEADERSHIP

To lead means to guide, conduct, persuade and direct affairs of people, for the purpose of achieving a set of goals. Therefore, leadership entails possessing certain qualities or potentials that enable one to perform some of these functions in people's lives. To be a good leader, one must be a good follower.

### JOSEPH AS A LEADER

(Gen. 37:1-36)

Joseph was **seventeen** years old when he was keeping his father's (Jacob) flock with his brothers. Joseph's brothers hated him for the fact that he took an **ill report** against his brothers to their father while they were tending the flock. Again, Jacob loved him more than any of his children, because he was the son of his **old age**; for this reason, he made for him a long robe with many colors. All these attracted more hatred from his brothers against him.

Also, the relationship was further worsened by the **two dreams** Joseph had. The first one was; all his brother's sheaves in the field stood upright and bowed down to his sheaf; the second dream was that the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me. His father rebuked him for this and kept the saying in his mind, but his brothers took the issue more seriously. They sought an opportunity to put him to death.

This opportunity came when they were pasturing the flock at **Shechem** near **Dothan** and their father sent him to go and see how they were faring. As his brothers saw him at a distance, they conspired to kill him. They said to themselves:



*"Here comes this dreamer, come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild beast has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams".*

When **Reuben** heard this, he suggested casting him into a pit with the intention of changing the brother plan. He felt this would give him the opportunity to rescue him and sent him back to his father. They agreed with him and did as he suggested but later, when Reuben was not there, they brought him out of the pit and **sold** him to some **Ishmaelite traders for twenty Shekels of Silver**. When the traders got to Egypt, they resold Joseph to Potiphar, the Egyptian security officer.

While in Potiphar's house, he served diligently and honestly, and this prompted Potiphar to make him the head of his household. But, he was later sent to prison because Potiphar's wife **falsely accused him of rape**. While in prison, he interacted well with the other prisoners and interpreted dreams for them. This was what subsequently led to his release from the prison.

After **two years** in prison, he interpreted dreams for Pharaoh who had two dreams. In the first, Pharaoh saw **seven cows gaunt** and these came of the **Nile** and ate up seven other sleek and **fat cows**. In the second dream, Pharaoh saw **seven ears and blighted grain** from the east wind swallow up another **seven plump and full ears**. Pharaoh was frightened by this dream and he called his magicians and the wise men in Egypt to give him the interpretation, but they could not.

Then the **chief Butler** whom Joseph had earlier interpreted a dream for, when they were together in the prison remembered Joseph and recommended him to Pharaoh. Joseph was brought out of the dungeon to Pharaoh. With the spirit of God in him, he gave Pharaoh perfect interpretation of the dream. He informed Pharaoh that both dreams were one. The seven good cows and ears of grain both represented seven years of abundance while the seven lean and gaunt cows and empty ears blighted grain by the east wind indicated **seven years of famine**. Joseph pointed out that the famine would be so severe that the **seven years of bountiful harvest** would be forgotten. He then made recommendation to Pharaoh on how to save the situation. Owing to the fact that Joseph was a man of great intelligence and the only one whom God had given the wisdom to interpret the dream, Pharaoh appointed him as the second in command in Egypt and put him in charge of storage and distribution of grains. The famine was so great that it extended to other lands including Canaan where Joseph's brother and father, Jacob, were residing. It was the need to purchase grains that brought them to meet Joseph in Egypt. Joseph forgave his brothers and the whole family was united again.

## **LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF JOSEPH**

- i.** Joseph was a man of immense intelligence with special gift of interpretation of dreams. He used the gift to help others.
- ii.** Joseph was a good leader. He performed the assignment of storage and distribution of grains to the Egyptians and the world at large.
- iii.** Despite the wickedness of his brothers, he forgave them instead of taking vengeance against them.
- iv.** Joseph always attributed his success to God.
- v.** He was friendly with people; he interacted well with his fellow prisoners and interpreted dreams for them, this was what made the chief Butler to recommend him to Pharaoh.
- vi.** He had a high sense of humility, He acknowledged God as the owner of the divine wisdom in him.
- vii.** When compared with the present day leaders, Joseph's leadership was exemplary in the sense that he demonstrated high level of honesty, integrity, fear of the Lord and forgiveness.

## **LESSON TO LEARN**

- i.** God turns disappointment, frustration and misfortune to blessing when one trusts and believes in Him, as could be seen when Joseph trusted and believed in the God he served.
- ii.** Christians should always humble themselves and be at peace with everybody, because they do not know whom God will use to bless them. It was the Butler that recommended Joseph to Pharaoh because they had good relationship while they were together in prison.
- iii.** No human effort can stop one's destiny once one trust and severe diligently.
- iv.** Leaders should be men of integrity and should not displace recklessness and vengeance.

## **Assignment**

Narrate the Butler and Baker's dreams, and Joseph interpretations.

