

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 30: JOSEPH IN PRISON
GENESIS 40:1-41:57

Later, two of Pharaoh's servants did something wrong to Pharaoh. These servants were the baker and the man who served wine to Pharaoh. Pharaoh became angry with his baker and wine server, so he put them in the same prison as Joseph. Potiphar, the commander of Pharaoh's guards, was in charge of this prison. The commander put the two prisoners under Joseph's care. The two men continued to stay in prison for some time. One night both of the prisoners had a dream. The baker and the wine server each had his own dream, and each dream had its own meaning. Joseph went to them the next morning and saw that the two men were worried. He asked them, "Why do you look so worried today?" The two men answered, "We both had dreams last night, but we don't understand what we dreamed. There is no one to explain the dreams to us." Joseph said to them, "God is the only one who can understand and explain dreams. So I beg you, tell me your dreams." So the wine server told Joseph his dream. The server said, "I dreamed I saw a vine. On the vine there were three branches. I watched the branches grow flowers and then become grapes. I was holding Pharaoh's cup, so I took the grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I gave the cup to Pharaoh." Then Joseph said, "I will explain the dream to you. The three branches mean three days. Before the end of three days, Pharaoh will forgive you and allow you to go back to your work. You will do the same work for Pharaoh as you did before. But when you are free, remember me. Be good to me and help me. Tell Pharaoh about me so that I can get out of this prison. I was kidnapped and taken from the land of my people, the Hebrews. I have done nothing wrong! I should not be in prison." The baker saw that the other servant's dream was good, so he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream. I dreamed there were three baskets of bread on my head. In the top basket there were all kinds of baked food for the king, but birds were eating this food." Joseph answered, "I will tell you what the dream means. The three baskets mean three days. Before the end of three days, the king will take you out of this prison and cut off your head! He will hang your body on a pole, and the birds will eat it." Three days later it was Pharaoh's birthday. He gave a party for all his servants. At the party Pharaoh allowed the wine server and the baker to leave the prison. He freed the wine server and gave him his job back, and once again the wine

server put a cup of wine in Pharaoh's hand. But Pharaoh hanged the baker, and everything happened the way Joseph said it would. But the wine server did not remember to help Joseph. He said nothing about him to Pharaoh. The wine server forgot about Joseph.

Two years later Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile River. In the dream, seven cows came out of the river and stood there eating grass. They were healthy, good-looking cows. Then seven more cows came out of the river and stood on the bank of the river by the healthy cows. But these cows were thin and looked sick. The seven sick cows ate the seven healthy cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. Pharaoh went back to sleep and began dreaming again. This time he dreamed that he saw seven heads of grain growing on one plant. They were healthy and full of grain. Then he saw seven more heads of grain sprouting, but they were thin and scorched by the hot wind. The thin heads of grain ate the seven good heads of grain. Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was only a dream. The next morning Pharaoh was worried about these dreams, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told these men the dreams, but none of them could explain the dreams. Then the wine servant remembered Joseph and said to Pharaoh, "I remember something that happened to me. You were angry with the baker and me, and you put us in prison. Then one night he and I had a dream. Each dream had a different meaning. There was a young Hebrew man in prison with us. He was a servant of the commander of the guards. We told him our dreams, and he explained them to us. He told us the meaning of each dream, and what he said came true. He said I would be free and have my old job back, and it happened. He also said the baker would die, and it happened!" So Pharaoh called Joseph from the prison. The guards quickly got Joseph out of prison. Joseph shaved, put on some clean clothes, and went to see Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can explain it for me. I heard that you can explain dreams when someone tells you about them." Joseph answered, "I cannot! But God can explain the dream for you, Pharaoh." Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In my dream I was standing by the Nile River. Seven cows came up out of the river and stood there eating the grass. They were healthy, good-looking cows. Then I saw seven more cows come up out of the river after them, but these cows were thin and looked sick. They were the worst cows I had ever seen anywhere in Egypt! The thin, sick cows ate the first healthy cows, but they still looked thin and sick. You couldn't even tell they had eaten the healthy

cows. They looked as thin and sick as they did in the beginning. Then I woke up. "In my next dream I saw seven heads of grain growing on one plant. They were healthy and full of grain. And then seven more heads of grain grew after them, but they were thin and scorched by the hot wind. Then the thin heads of grain ate the seven good heads of grain. "I told these dreams to my magicians. But no one could explain the dreams to me. What do they mean?" Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Both of these dreams have the same meaning. God is telling you what will happen soon. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are seven good years. And the seven thin, sick-looking cows and the seven thin heads of grain mean that there will be seven years of hunger in this area. These seven bad years will come after the seven good years. God has shown you what will happen soon. He will make these things happen just as I told you. For seven years there will be plenty of food in Egypt. But then there will be seven years of hunger. The people will forget how much food there had been in Egypt before. This famine will ruin the country. It will be so bad that people will forget what it was like to have plenty of food. "Pharaoh, you had two dreams about the same thing. That means God wanted to show you that he really will make this happen, and he will make it happen soon! So, Pharaoh, you should choose a wise, intelligent man and put him in charge of Egypt. Then you should choose other men to collect food from the people. During the seven good years, the people must give them one-fifth of all the food they grow. In this way these men will collect all the food during the seven good years and store it in the cities until it is needed. Pharaoh, this food will be under your control. Then during the seven years of hunger, there will be food for the country of Egypt. And Egypt will not be destroyed by the famine." This seemed like a very good idea to Pharaoh, and all his officials agreed. Then Pharaoh told them, "I don't think we can find anyone better than Joseph to take this job! God's Spirit is in him, making him very wise!" So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God showed these things to you, so you must be the wisest man. I will put you in charge of my country, and the people will obey all your commands. I will be the only one more powerful than you." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I now make you governor over all of Egypt." Then Pharaoh gave his special ring to Joseph. The royal seal was on this ring. Pharaoh also gave Joseph a fine linen robe and put a gold chain around his neck. Then he told Joseph to ride in his second chariot. Pharaoh's officials said, "Let him be the governor over the whole land of Egypt!" Then

Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, the king over everyone in Egypt, but no one else in Egypt can lift a hand or move a foot unless you say he can." Then Pharaoh gave Joseph another name, Zaphenath Paneah. He also gave Joseph a wife named Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, a priest in the city of On. So Joseph became the governor over the whole country of Egypt. Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving the king of Egypt. He traveled throughout the country of Egypt. During the seven good years, the crops in Egypt grew very well. Joseph saved the food in Egypt during those seven years and stored the food in the cities. In every city he stored grain that grew in the fields around the city. Joseph stored so much grain that it was like the sands of the sea. He stored so much grain that it could not be measured. Joseph's wife, Asenath, was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest in the city of On. Before the first year of hunger came, Joseph and Asenath had two sons. Joseph named the first son Manasseh. He was given this name because Joseph said, "God made me forget all my hard work and everything back home in my father's house." Joseph named the second son Ephraim. Joseph gave him this name because he said, "I had great troubles, but God has made me successful in everything." For seven years people had all the food they needed, but those years ended. Then the seven years of hunger began, just as Joseph had said. No food grew anywhere in any of the countries in that area. But in Egypt people had plenty to eat because Joseph had stored the grain. The famine began, and the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Pharaoh said to the Egyptian people, "Go ask Joseph what to do." There was famine everywhere, so Joseph gave the people grain from the warehouses. He sold the stored grain to the people of Egypt. The famine was bad in Egypt, but the famine was bad everywhere. So people from the countries around Egypt had to come to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain.

30. JOSEPH IN PRISON

(GENESIS 40:1-41:57)

MEMORY VERSE:

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” MATTHEW 5:8

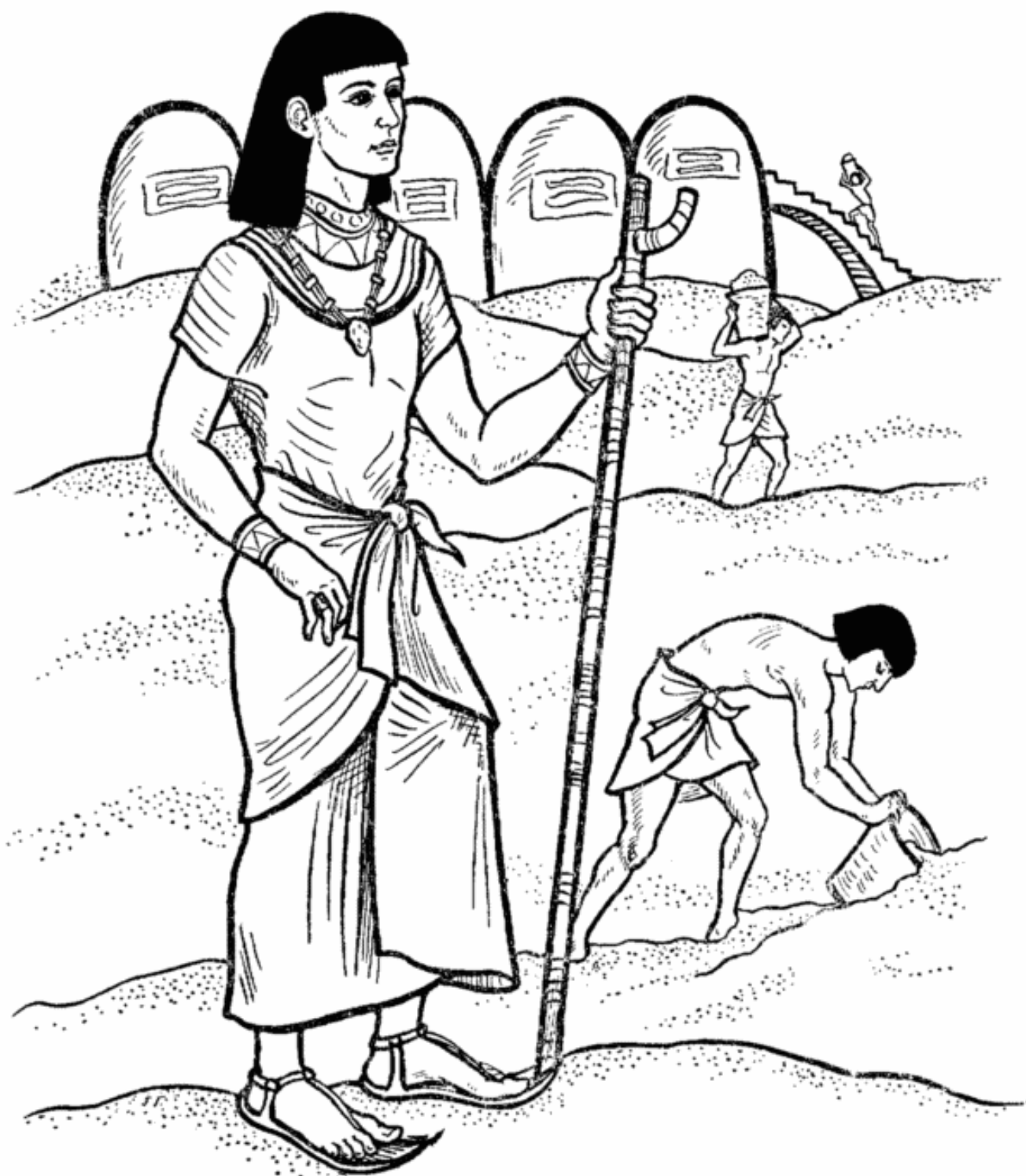
TRUE OR FALSE:

1. The dishwasher and the cook were put into prison by the king of Egypt.
TRUE or FALSE
2. The king of Egypt put the butler and the baker in the same prison where Joseph was. TRUE or FALSE
3. Both the butler and the baker had dreams when they were in prison.
TRUE or FALSE
4. They told their wives about their dreams. TRUE or FALSE
5. Joseph was able to tell the baker and the butler what their dreams meant.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

6. Did the Pharaoh let the chief butler come back and serve Pharaoh again?
7. Did the chief butler remember to tell Pharaoh about Joseph who was still in prison?
8. What happened when Pharaoh had some dreams that bothered him? Was there anyone who could tell him what his dreams meant?
9. Who did Pharaoh call to come and tell him about his dreams?
10. What did Pharaoh do for Joseph after he told him what his dreams meant? Did he put him in charge of everything?

30. JOSEPH IN PRISON (GENESIS 40:1-41:57)



Joseph was placed in command of all Egypt, second only to Pharaoh.

LESSON 30 ACTIVITY

Grocery Goof-ups!

You will need a basket or paper or plastic bag, fake or real items (you can use groceries, or things within the classroom like erasers, stapler, crayons, books, Bible, etc), some grocery or other item lists, and a timer (you can count to 30 using 'one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.). Set the items in rows around the room to represent the shelves in a store. Ask your class, "As much as your mothers love you, have they ever forgotten something you wanted or needed from the store?" The answer will most probably be a big "Yes!". Have your students pick a list from several options you provide. (smaller children you can use the print-outs in this lesson as the lists), then cut out the items and put on a side table or shelves for them to go shopping for. They must read (or look at the pictures) the list and **give it back to you**. Then have them "shop" for the items - they must remember what to get. 7 & 8 year-olds put 10 items on the list. You can make this as difficult as is age appropriate. Set the timer for 30 seconds and let them shop. (or count to 30)

Compare the items they have collected with the lists they turned in.

When your students are done shopping, explain that it's easy to forget an occasional item or two when there are so many items to remember, but God never forgets. He is always thinking of us, and working circumstances together for good in our lives. [God never forgets us.](#)

God had not forgotten His faithful servant Joseph. He had an incredible plan for his life.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's continual remembrance of His children. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them the opportunity.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY FOR LESSON 30

INTERVIEW A FRIEND

Interview a Friend Keep the interview a secret until partners are chosen. You can choose partners by placing chairs in the room back to back and playing “musical chairs.” But in this case, there will be the exact amount of chairs necessary for everyone to sit on.

When the music stops have everyone sit down, then have them turn the chairs around to interview the person sitting opposite them. This way you will not have only friends pairing up.

Give each child a pencil and a copy of the provided interview sheet. Have them ask the questions on the sheet and write down the answers.

When the whole class is done, collect all of the sheets, allow some of the students to introduce their interviewee to the class. See how many of the questions they remember the answers to. Can anyone remember the answers to ALL of the questions about their partner?

When a few introductions have been made, point out that even though we cannot remember all of the answers to questions we have just asked, God will always remember everything. He knows us perfectly and God never forgets us. It may have seemed that Joseph, now in prison, was forgotten by all. But God did not forget. He knew just where Joseph was and had a good plan for Joseph's future.

INTERVIEW A FRIEND

What is your name?

When is your birthday?

What is your favorite color?

What is your favorite food?

What is your favorite thing to do?

What is your favorite school subject?

What do you want to do when you grow up?

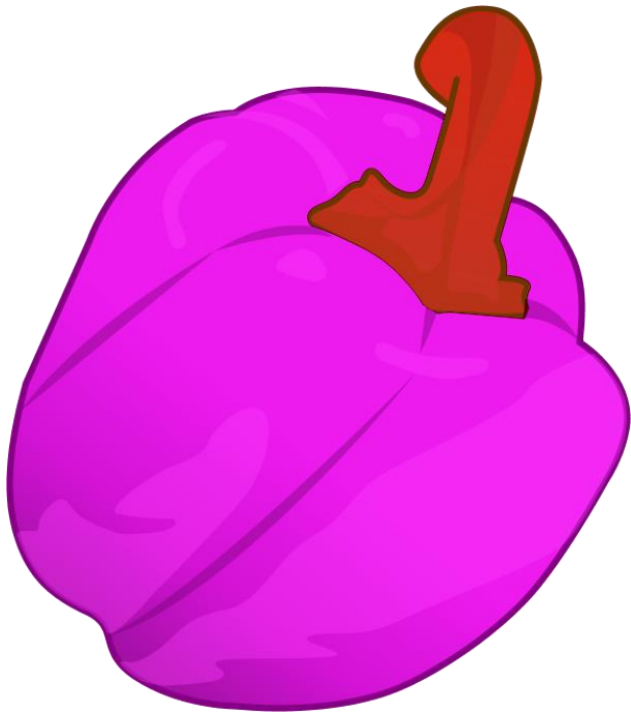
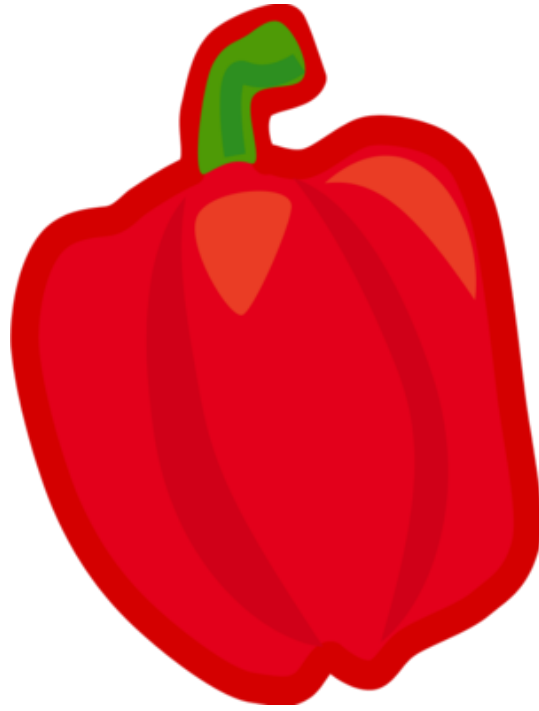
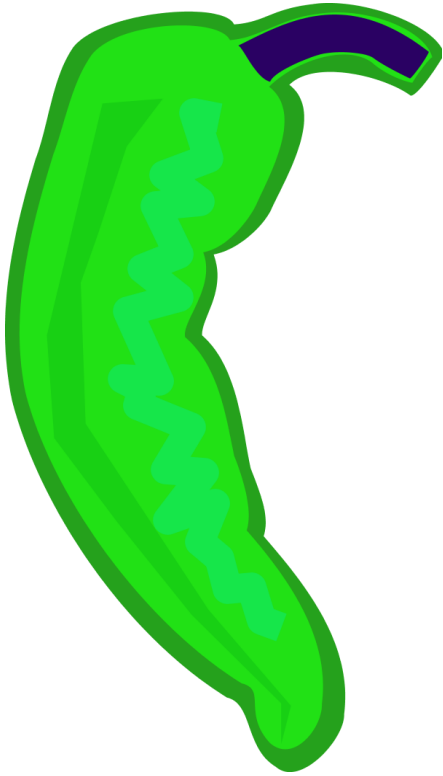
If you could go on vacation anywhere in the world where would you go?

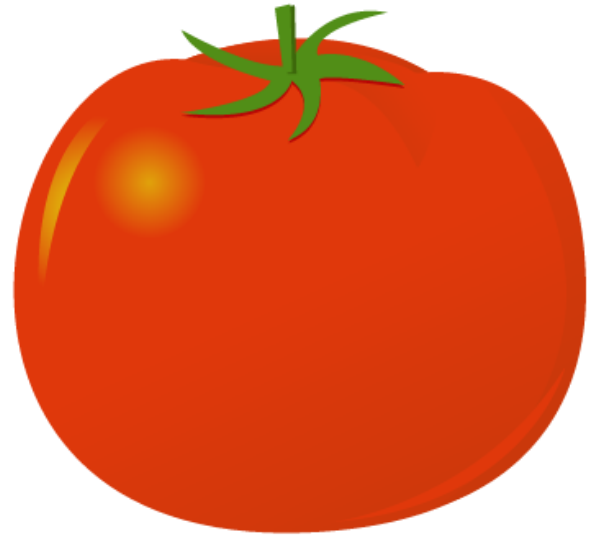
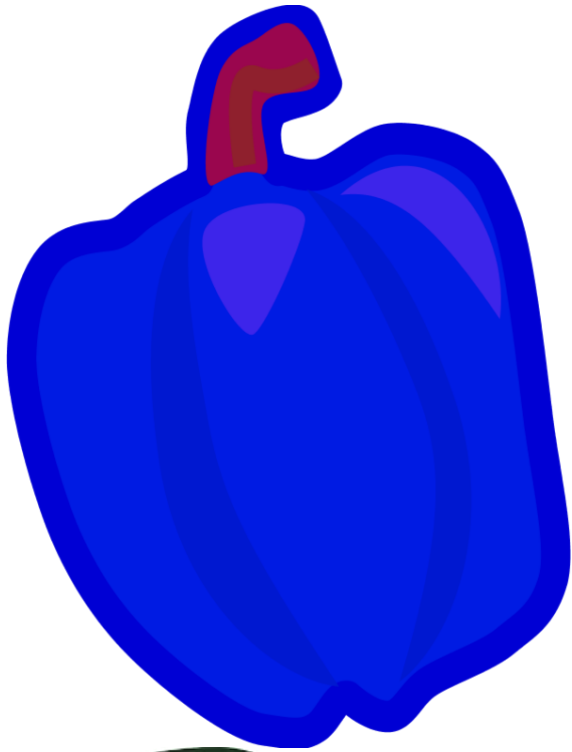
Do you have any pets?

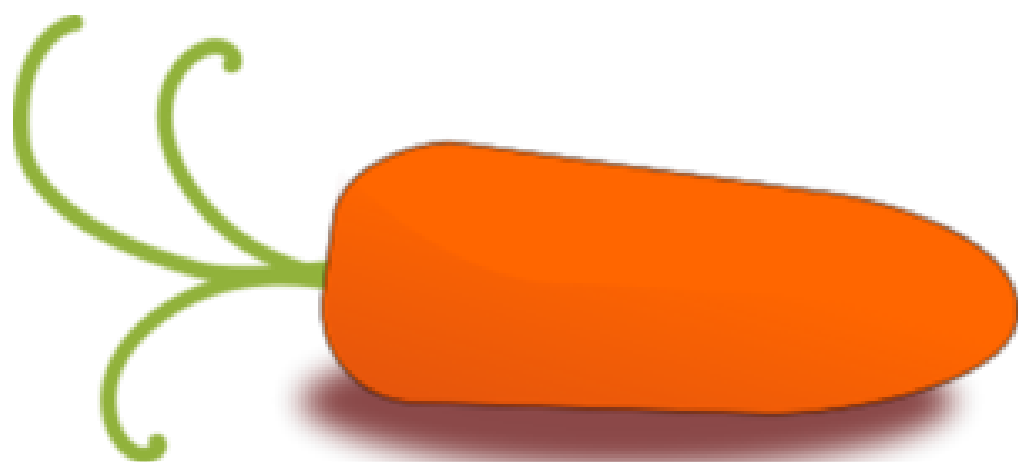
What are their names?

What is your favorite verse in the Bible?

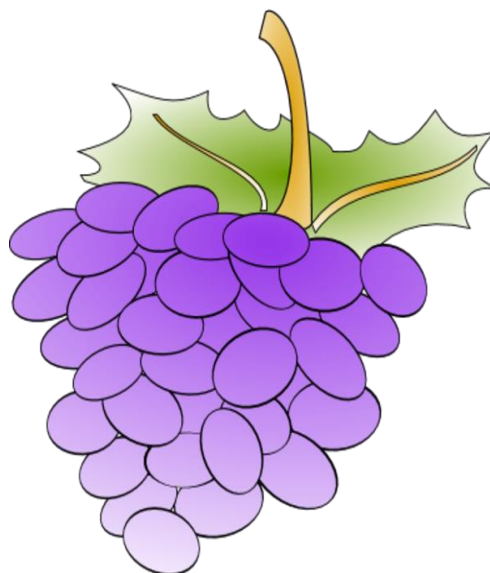
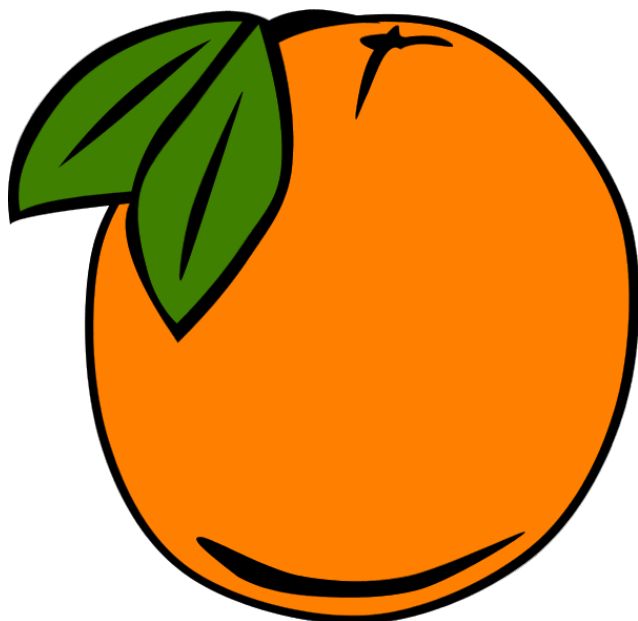
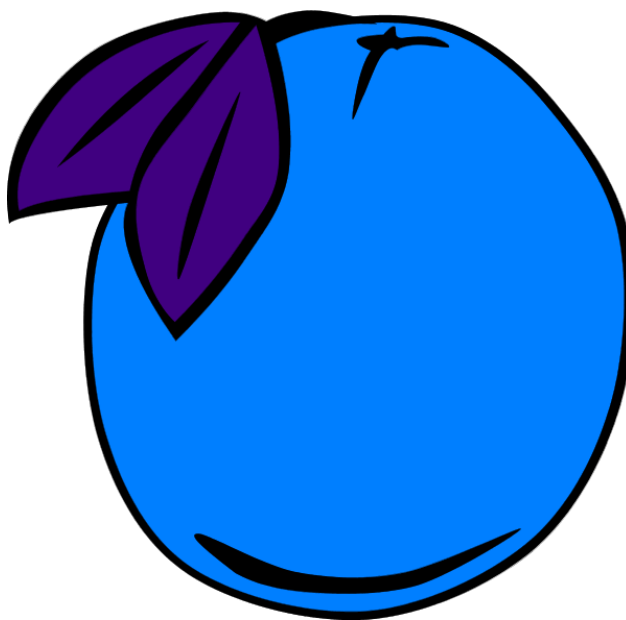
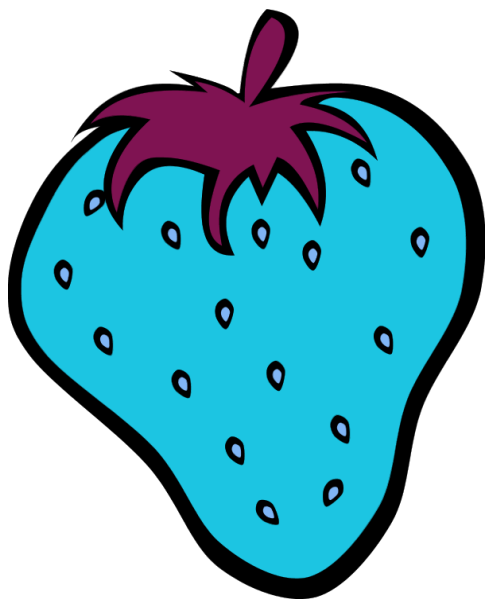
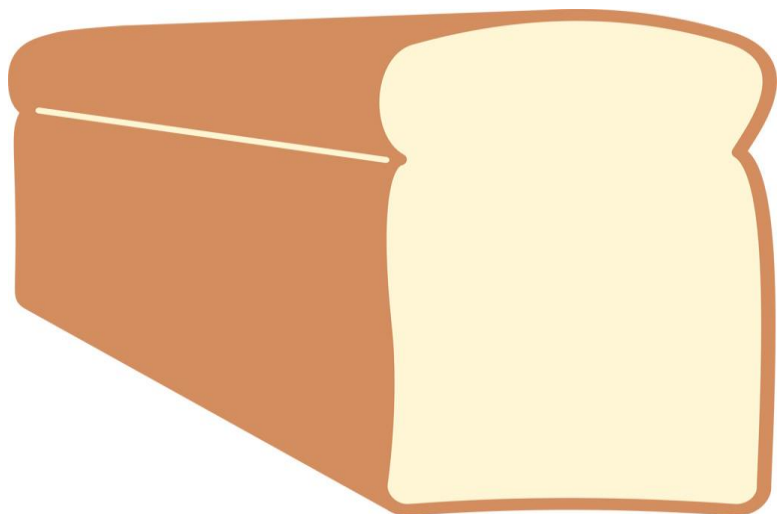
What are the names of your brothers or sisters?

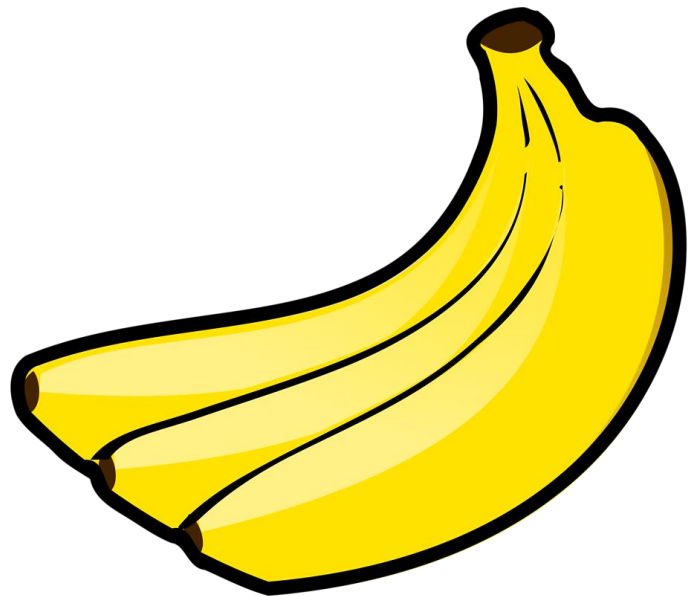
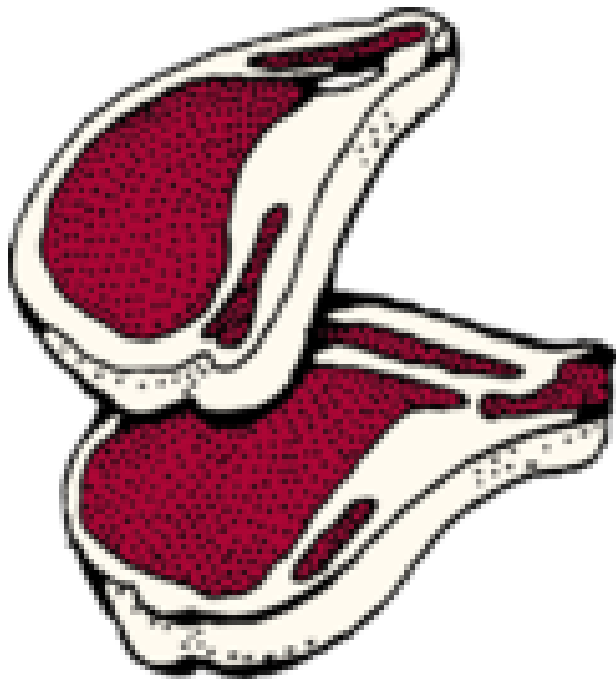
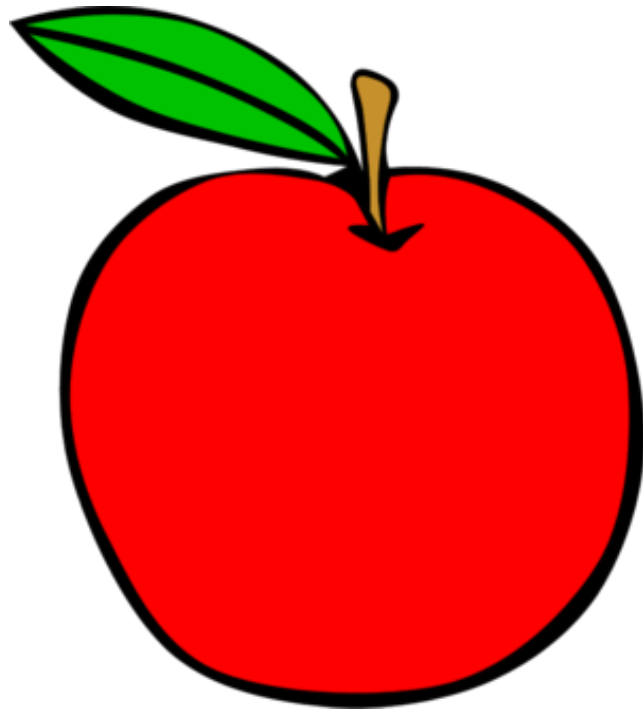
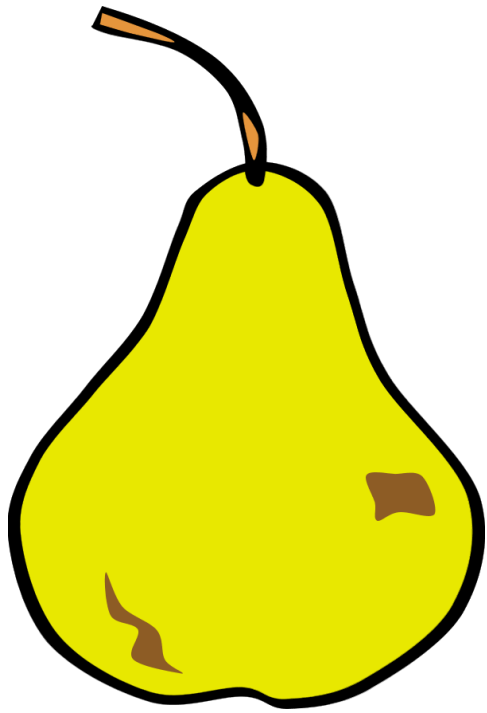




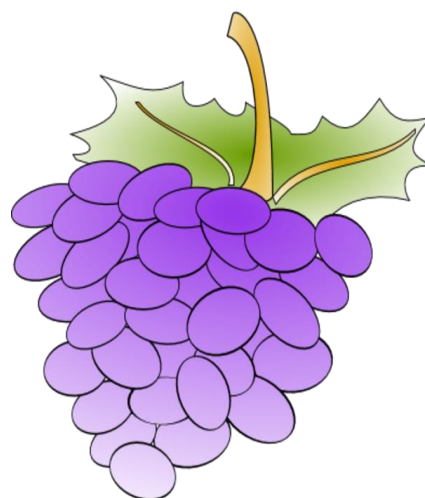
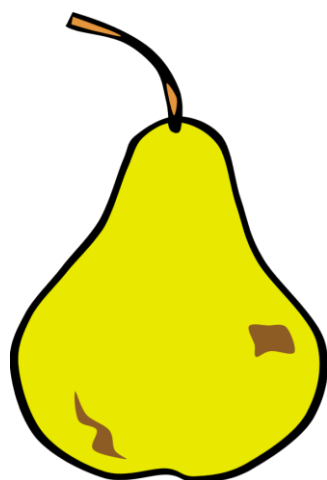
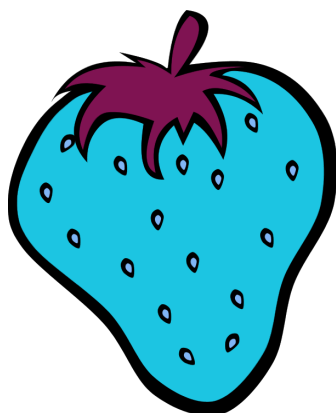
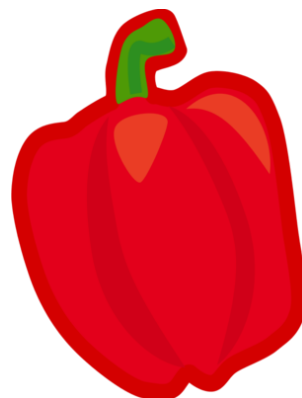
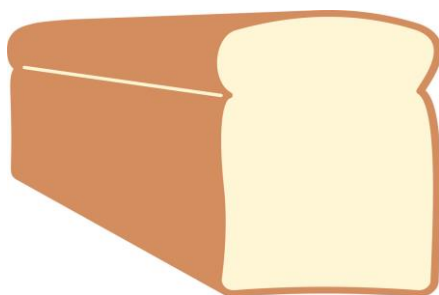








LIST 1



LIST 2

