

Joseph friends in the strange land, ch. 39: 1-6. Now comes a sad part of the story. Joseph had to suffer just what we have been talking about. Potiphar was told a false story about Joseph, and Potiphar was very angry. Here is Joseph being led out a prisoner, and taken to the prison (a square with a small grated window).

This is where we find Joseph in our Lesson to-day. But he looks neither sad nor angry. He is happy, hopeful and helpful.

Joseph has a Friend who is with him even in prison, v. 21. God makes others in the prison to be friends of Joseph also. He makes the keeper of the prison, the chief butler, and, by and by, King Pharaoh himself, to be his friends. You see, if God is our Friend, He can make many friends for us.

The true, honest, faithful boy Joseph, became the true, honest, faithful man Joseph.

Tell how the keeper of the prison trusted Joseph, and gave him charge of all the other prisoners. God was with Joseph, and made everything Joseph did to prosper. One day two new prisoners came—the chief butler and the chief baker of the king of Egypt. The king had become very angry with them, and had ordered them both to be put in prison. Joseph was given charge of them

also. One morning, when Joseph went into their prison, they both looked very sad. Joseph asked the reason, and they told him. They each had dreamed a dream, and they were afraid, for they did not know what the dreams meant, and they did not know where to find any one who could tell them. Joseph told them that God would explain the dreams. So the chief butler told his dream to Joseph (vs. 9-13), and God gave Joseph wisdom to know what the dream meant. It meant that Pharaoh was going to take the chief butler out of prison and back to the palace again to wait on him as usual. (See vs. 13-15.)

*Golden Text*—Repeat. God always rewards a faithful boy or girl. Speak of ways in which boys and girls may be faithful to God, and faithful in their duties at home or in school.

*Friends*—How glad we should be that we have friends! We have one GREAT FRIEND who is always ready to help us and to plead with God our King to forgive and help us. Sing, "What a Friend we have in Jesus!"

*Something to Think About*—God gives me my friends.

*Something to Draw*—Draw a PRISON and remember that God gave Joseph friends to help him.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

## SOME BIBLE PRISONERS

**JOSEPH**

**JEREMIAH** — — — Jer. 38 : 6, 12, 13.

**PETER** — — — Acts 12 : 3, 4, 7-10.

**PAUL and SILAS** — Acts 16 : 22-26.

Print on the blackboard, SOME BIBLE PRISONERS. The Lesson tells about one of these, JOSEPH (Print). With a little help, the scholars will give the names of other Bible prisoners. Select from those named, JEREMIAH, PETER, PAUL AND SILAS (Print). Then, read in concert, Jer. 38 : 6, 12, 13 (write on board), and make sure that all have a vivid idea of the kind of prison Jeremiah was put into, and of how he was delivered from it. Deal similarly with the cases of Peter (write Acts 12 : 3, 4, 7-10, and read this passage), and of Paul and Silas (write Acts 16 : 22-26, and read). Ask how all these prisoners, including Joseph, differed from ordinary prisoners. A little questioning will bring out the answer, that they were innocent of any crime. Further questioning will elicit the fact, that they were imprisoned because they followed their conscience. Press home this plain question, Is it better to follow conscience or to follow our inclinations? Emphasize the fact that God is on the same side as conscience, and that He is greater than all who can be against us.