

He were a sorry soldier who should be ashamed of his country's flag in the territory of an enemy. v. 8.

Wisdom belongs to the pure heart, not less than to the clever head. vs. 9-13.

God holds back from His children the fruit

of their efforts until it is fully ripe. vs. 14, 15.

"I like the man who faces what he must

With step triumphant and a heart of cheer,

Who fights the daily battle without fear,

Sees his hopes fail, yet keeps unfaltering trust."

### TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

#### For Teachers of the Older Scholars

The few events in the life of Joseph assigned for study should be viewed only as vantage points from which to view his life as a whole. Let the teacher, therefore, carefully consider the intervals between the Lessons. Bring out the personal character of Joseph (v. 1), the manner in which it commended itself to his master (v. 3), and his subsequent promotions, vs. 4-6. These things disclose a character whose greatness is recognized by all.

1. Consider Joseph's faithfulness to the gaoler and the prisoners in his ordinary work, vs. 20-23. His punishment was moderate, considering the laws and despotism of the time. Perhaps his master was clearly convinced of Joseph's innocence and integrity. Study Joseph in prison: how God was with him, how his goodness and greatness impressed others, and his promotion to the position of overseer. Note, that in prison he showed the same character as when afterwards he was in power.

2. Consider his faithfulness to God and man in connection with special events, ch. 40: 1-5. The Lesson cites one case as an illustration. Note: (a) The occasion of it, vs. 1-4. See the light this casts on the system of government and absolutism. The "butler" and "baker" were high class offenders. (b) The dreams, vs. 5-11. Review the study of dreams in the preceding Lesson. The confidence of these men in him shows that Joseph had lived down all suspicion, and was now a trusted friend of prominent men. (c) The interpretation, vs. 12, 13. This was a wonderful revelation of God's favor and overruling guidance. (d) His request, vs. 14, 15. This shows he had made no appeal to the king as to his innocence; he preferred

to suffer wrong, abiding in his integrity.

The Lesson shows the processes in the development of a great character, namely, trial, slavery, imprisonment, loneliness among men, and fellowship with God. These were stepping stones. The greatness of Joseph is seen in the fact, that his injury and suffering did not sour his spirit. This is a good place to study how the innocent should meet their injury and wrong treatment. Study what Jesus says in Matt. 5: 10-12.

Further, emphasize how trust in God is the saving grace in the hour of temptation. It gives the supreme confidence that righteousness is the eternal law of life, to be held to at any cost. Illustrate by the martyrs, and show the effects of adherence to righteousness on character and in society.

#### For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Joseph a Prisoner, is the subject of the Lesson.

As the aim is to embrace the whole story, be sure to review the happenings in Joseph's life up to the present time. It has been a series of misfortunes; a long, dark tunnel, with just the least trace of light at the further end—a trace which it took the eye of faith to see. The present Lesson adds little to the light. Indeed, it seems to make it dimmer still.

Taking up the story of the arrival of the caravan of the merchantmen in Egypt, picture the slave market, and the sale of Joseph to Potiphar, the head of the king's police, v. 1. Have the scholars tell of Joseph's quick promotion in Potiphar's household (trusted slaves were often given great responsibilities)—vs. 4, 5, 6 give the details. The class will be interested in searching out the secret of it all.

The skies of Joseph's life had brightened, but they were speedily overcast. A base lie cast him into prison. It was a total eclipse: