



Charles Spurgeon

One Sunday morning right after Christmas, fifteen year old Charles Spurgeon found himself in a Methodist church. About thirteen people were in the building. The leader for that day was an uneducated man, but he spoke with enthusiasm.

The speaker began to read from Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth." The man explained that receiving Jesus wasn't something difficult. It was as easy as looking. The speaker then looked at Charles and asked him to obey God and look to Jesus for salvation. This all made perfect sense to Charles and that very day he found the peace his heart had been looking for. Charles Spurgeon simply and quietly accepted Christ as his Savior.

It wasn't long before young Charles felt God was calling him to preach. By the time he was nineteen, he was the pastor of the largest church in London, preaching to thousands every week. His simple, powerful sermons filled seventy-five volumes.

Before his death at age fifty-seven, Spurgeon was asked to put his Christian faith into a few words. His answer, "Jesus died for me." It was this truth that had driven him to tell the world about Jesus for forty years.

Use the Hieroglyphics to determine who orders our steps. Use Psalm 37:23 if you need help.

A B D E F G H I L M N O P R S T

"THE _____ OF A _____ MAN ARE

_____ BY THE _____ : AND

HE _____ IN HIS WAY."



Joseph honored God, and God honored Joseph.

Wherever Joseph might be—in the pit, in Potiphar's house, in the prison, or in Pharaoh's palace,

God was with Joseph because Joseph loved and obeyed God. **Could God honor you because of your love and obedience to Him?**



Joseph Rules

Gen. 41:1-57



For two years, the chief butler forgot all about Joseph. He served Pharaoh while Joseph stayed in prison.

Then one night, Pharaoh had two dreams. When none of his wise men could tell what Pharaoh's dreams meant, the king's butler spoke up, saying, "Today I remember my wrong! Two years ago when I was in prison, I had a dream, and a young Hebrew man there told me what my dream meant."

Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once. When Joseph arrived, the king told him, "I have dreamed two dreams. In my first dream, seven fat cows came up out of the Nile River. Then seven very thin cows come out of the river and ate up the seven fat cows, but they remained just as skinny as before!

"A little later," he continued, "I dreamed again, and I saw seven full ears of corn grow up out of a stalk. Later, seven thin ears came out of the same stalk and ate up the fat ears!"

"I do not have the answer to your dreams, but it is God Who gives the meaning. Both your dreams have the same message," Joseph told the king. "The seven fat cows and the seven full ears of corn mean that there are going to be seven years of plenty in Egypt; the seven skinny cows and the seven thin ears of corn show that afterward there will be seven years of famine.

"God has given you these dreams to warn you that these things will happen very soon," Joseph continued. "I advise you to put your wisest man in charge of the food supply. Then, during

the seven years of plenty, let him save up enough grain to feed the people during the seven years of famine."

Pharaoh liked Joseph's suggestion, and he said, "Can we find another man like this, who has the Spirit of God on him?" So Pharaoh made Joseph his second-in-command, honoring him and appointing him to be in charge of the food supply. Day after day for seven years, Joseph saved food in huge storehouses, until he finally had an enormous quantity laid aside for the time of famine.

At last, the seven years of plenty ended, and the seven years of famine began. All the surrounding countries suffered famine, too, but because God had blessed Joseph, Egypt had plenty of grain.



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Junior • Spring • Week 6



An Unexpected Friendship

Lyle Berry

Part 2

was cruel. How could she even think of tripping the other team's players? Someone could get hurt! As she sped down the sidewalk, Casey thought about what her mom had said. It really was for the best that she and Serena weren't friends anymore! After all, Casey could not be friends with someone who would cheat and try to hurt others.

Although it was a beautiful spring day, Casey did not feel so cheerful anymore. She was disappointed in Serena, and she was also a little lonely. Her older sister Lauren was babysitting that afternoon, and Casey had come with her to the park. She skated over to the swings where Lauren was pushing two-year-old Jack.

"Hi!" said Lauren with a bright smile. Casey tried to smile back, but she did not feel like it. "What's the matter?" asked Lauren. "You don't seem like your usual, cheerful self."

Casey told her sister about Serena. "And you wish that you had a best friend again," said Lauren.

Several lilac bushes hid her from Serena's view.

Before she could wave and get Serena's attention, Casey heard her say, "We have to win today's game, no matter what! If you play first base again, try to trip a couple of the other team's hitters."

"I don't know, Serena," said her friend. "That sounds really mean."

Serena just shrugged. "We want to win, don't we? Whatever you do, don't let the runners get to second base."

Casey could not believe what she was hearing! Serena's idea

Casey missed spending time with her friend Serena.

They had been inseparable until Serena had started playing softball. Since then, Serena spent all of her time with the girls from her team, leaving Casey out. Casey tried not to feel sad. She had other friends, but she and Serena had been *best* friends.

One Saturday, Casey was skating at the park when she saw Serena and one of her teammates throwing a softball around.

"Exactly," said Casey, glad that Lauren understood. "Everyone says that I'm so friendly, but I don't have any really *close* friends."

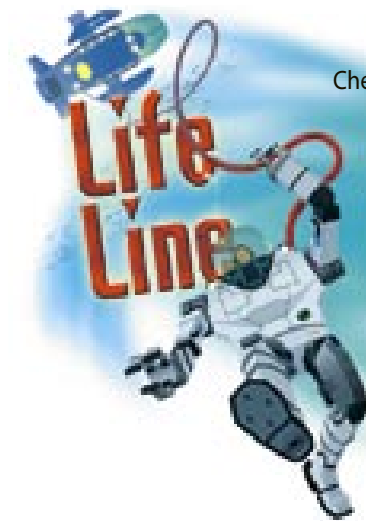
Before Casey had time to feel sad any longer, Lauren said, "I have an idea. After Jack's parents come to pick him up, let's do something special together."

That night, Casey and Lauren made homemade pizza and popped popcorn. They also baked their favorite double chocolate chip cookies. They had so much fun cooking and baking, they almost forgot the best part—eating! By the time they had finished, they were both stuffed. But not too stuffed to play board games together until it was time for bed.

As the two girls climbed the stairs to their rooms, Lauren stopped. "You know, Casey," she said, "I think there's an important reason you don't have many close friends."

"What's that?" asked Casey with interest.

Lauren smiled at her sister. "Well, I don't really have a *best*



Check off the verses as you read about this week's lesson.

- Monday: Psalm 37:1–3
- Tuesday: Psalm 37:6–9
- Wednesday: Genesis 41:9–13
- Thursday: Genesis 41:14–16
- Friday: Genesis 41:29–36
- Saturday: Genesis 41:37–43
- Sunday: Genesis 41:53–57

friend either. Maybe God has not given us a lot of close friends because we are supposed to be *each other's* best friends. Think about it. Not many sisters are as close as we are."

Most of the girls Casey knew fought with their sisters. But over the last several months, Casey and Lauren had become really close. "I think you're right!" exclaimed Casey.

As the two girls said good night, each one felt good to have a best friend. Before Casey fell asleep, she knelt by her bed. She whispered, *Dear God, You know I was disappointed in Serena today. I felt like I didn't have any friends.*

Now, in just one day, I realized that I already have a special friend. Thank you for Lauren.

After she said "amen," Lauren knocked on the door. "Come in," said Casey.

Lauren came in carrying a hanger. "I just thought you might want to borrow my dress for church tomorrow."

"Really?" asked Casey with disbelief. It was Lauren's favorite blue dress.

Lauren nodded.

Casey hugged her sister, feeling so happy she could not contain it. "Thank you, best friend," she said.

