

**Theme:** WISE AND DISCREET MANAGEMENT OF PLENTIOUS YEARS

**Memory Verse:** *Genesis 41:46* “And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh King of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.”

**Texts:** Genesis 41:46-49; Proverbs 6:6-11

The mention of the age of Joseph here is deliberate. He, at the prime of his age, was to harness all his energy, strength, gifts and wisdom to implement his divinely inspired proposal (Genesis 41:33-36). Christ also began His public ministry at the same age of thirty. This shows that children or immature minds cannot be entrusted with sensitive responsibilities, or else they ruin themselves and the society. Although spiritual babes cannot be charged with the task of overseeing God’s house and people (Ecclesiastes 10: 16; 1 Timothy 3:6), it is good for the young that have known Christ to give their strength to the service of the Lord. They should not think that the task of going through all the land to preach the gospel is for the old.

God commands in His word that the youth should remember their Creator when there is still time (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7). As predicted, the seven years of great plenty came! The next task before Joseph was to “gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine” (Genesis 41:35,36). With divine direction, Joseph launched into action. He employed the following resource management strategies:

One, he went out and surveyed all the land of Egypt. He did not sit down passively and presumptuously. Two, he gathered up all the food from day one to the last day of the seven year bountiful harvest. There was no careless delay. Three, he stored the food gathered in storages built in the cities and in the fields. He took advantage of contiguous storage techniques to avoid the constraints of distance between resources and storage posts. Four, every type of food was gathered, including corn, which attracted mass storage. The manual record-keeping attempts of Joseph failed because of the enormity of the grains (Genesis 41:46- 49). Joseph’s approach was scientific, combining feasibility study, resource-gathering, resource storage and record-keeping approaches. The lesson we should learn here is that individuals, families and the church should take advantage of all God-given skills and resources - human and material - in achieving expected goal.

	<b>DAILY BIBLE READING</b>	
	<b>MORNING</b>	<b>EVENING</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	2 Corinthians 12	2 Corinthians 13
<b>MONDAY</b>	Galatians 1	Galatians 2
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Galatians 3	Galatians 4
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Galatians 5	Galatians 6
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Ephesians 1	Ephesians 2
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Ephesians 3	Ephesians 4
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Ephesians 5	Ephesians 6