

A lit matchstick is shown on the left, with a bright yellow and orange flame. It is positioned to light a row of ten unlit matchsticks that are lined up horizontally below it. The background is a dark blue gradient.

PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE

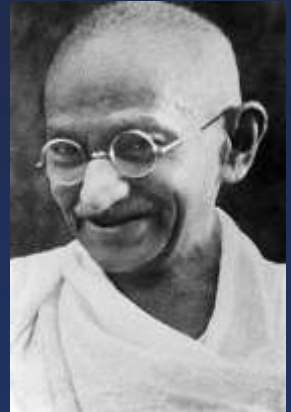
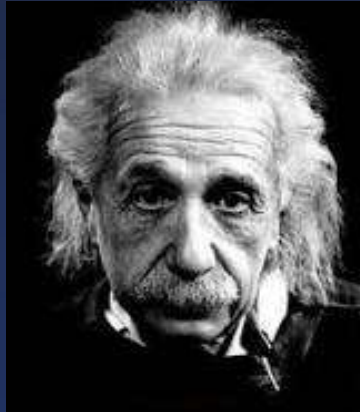
*If He Did It Before,
He Can Do It Again!*



The Most Influential People of All Time

If you Google “people of influence,” the search will take you to various lists of “the most influential people in the world.”

- The first list I pulled up showed:
 - 1. Jesus Christ is listed (or ranked) 1 on the list The Most Influential People of All Time
 - 2. Albert Einstein
 - 13. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - 14. Mahatma Gandhi



People of Influence

These lists usually include political leaders; business entrepreneurs and athletes; along with people in science, the arts, and entertainment. You will not find the names of cooks and cleaners who work for them. Yet those in so-called lowly positions often influence the people they serve.

2 Kings 5:5-16 Naaman healed of leprosy

⁵ Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.'

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ 'By all means, go,' the king of Aram replied. 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: 'With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.'

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, 'Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!'

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: 'Why have you torn your robes? Make the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.'

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"!' ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵ Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.'

¹⁶ The prophet answered, 'As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.' And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.

JOSEPH

If He Did It Before,

He Can Do It Again!



Family

Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, lived in the land of Canaan with ten half-brothers, one full brother, and at least one half-sister.

He was Rachel's firstborn and Jacob's eleventh son. Of all the sons, Joseph was preferred by his father, and this is represented by a "long coat of many colours".

When Joseph was seventeen years old he had two dreams that made his brothers plot his demise.

In the first dream, Joseph and his brothers gathered bundles of grain, of which those his brothers gathered, bowed to his own.

In the second dream, the sun (father), the moon (mother), and eleven stars (brothers) bowed to Joseph himself. These dreams, implying his supremacy, angered his brothers. ([Genesis 37:1-11](#))

Plot to kill Joseph

Joseph's half-brothers were jealous of him; (Genesis 37:18-20) most of them plotted to kill him, with the exception of Reuben, who suggested to have Joseph thrown into an empty cistern, intending to rescue Joseph himself.

Unaware of this secondary intention, the others obeyed his first. Upon imprisoning Joseph, the brothers saw a camel caravan carrying spices and perfumes to Egypt, and sold Joseph to these merchants.

Then the guilty brothers painted goat's blood on Joseph's coat and showed it to Jacob, who therefore believed Joseph dead. (Genesis 37:12-35)

Potiphar house

Ultimately, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard.

Later, Joseph became Potiphar's personal servant, and subsequently his household's superintendent.

Here, Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, which he refused. Angered by his running away from her, she made a false accusation of rape, and thus assured his imprisonment. ([Genesis 39:1-20](#))

Joseph in Prison

The warden put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners.

Soon afterward Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker, who had offended the Pharaoh, were thrown into the prison, and suffered dreams interpreted by Joseph, who stated that the chief cup-bearer would be reinstated but the chief baker would be hanged.

Joseph requested the cup-bearer to mention him to Pharaoh and secure his release from prison, but the cup-bearer, reinstated in office, forgot Joseph.

After two more years, the Pharaoh dreamt of seven lean cows which devoured seven fat cows; and of seven withered ears of grain which devoured seven fat ears. When the Pharaoh's advisers failed to interpret these dreams, the cup-bearer remembered Joseph.

Joseph was then summoned. He interpreted the dream as seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine, and advised the Pharaoh to store surplus grain.

Joseph Second in Command of Egypt

Following the prediction, Joseph became Second in Command, the daughter of Potipherah, to be his wife.

During the seven years of abundance, Joseph ensured that the storehouses were full and that all produce was weighed.

In the sixth year, Joseph's wife bore two children to Joseph: Manasseh and Ephraim.

When the famine came, it was so severe that people from surrounding nations came to Egypt to buy bread. The story indicates that they went straight to Joseph or were directed to him, even by the Pharaoh himself. (Genesis 41:37-57)

As a last resort, all of the inhabitants of Egypt, less the Egyptian priestly class, sold their properties to Joseph for seed; wherefore Joseph set a mandate that, because the people would be sowing and harvesting seed on government property, a fifth of the produce should go to the Pharaoh. This mandate lasted until the days of Moses. (Genesis 47:20-31)

- God's desire is that we are big people.
- God's desire is that we are 'People of Influence'.
- We might not have all the answers, but we have the hope and knowledge that God is with us what ever.
- John 15:5 ⁵ 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- Matthew 28:18-20 (NIVUK) ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'
- What a beautiful picture of our role as followers of Jesus Christ! We are called to be people of influence—the Lord's chosen.
- We have Holy Spirit living in us.
- We are 'People of Influence'
- Are we prepared to grow into 'People of Influence' God intended us to be?

