

Cultivate Genesis Study
Chapter 40

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 40 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

After Potiphar's wife's false accusation, Joseph was imprisoned. He was joined by two high officials, who had angered the Pharaoh.

Read Chapter 40: 1-8

In verse 4, we see that it is Potiphar (Genesis 37:36) who put Joseph in the position to be with the two officials; not merely a fellow prisoner, but to serve the high-ranking servants of Pharaoh. God continued to move behind the scenes to put Joseph where he needed to be.

Chapter 40 gives us a lesson in patience. Joseph was given a dream, by God, that he would be in a position of authority. God *will* use Joseph in a mighty way. However, it will be in His timing. God is preparing Joseph through his trials, for the job that lies ahead.

1. Look up the following verses to see who God was preparing for a special work to walk in. Who did God prepare and how long did they wait?

Exodus 7:6,7 _____

2Samuel 5:4 _____

Numbers 4:46-47 _____

Galatians 1:15-18 _____

Luke 3:23 _____

Joshua had to wander in the desert for forty years, preparing to lead the Israelites in the Promised Land.

Jesus trained his apostles for three years before they were sent out into the world to preach the Gospel.

2. What is the instruction to church leaders in 1Timothy 3:1-10, especially verses 6 and 10?

Why is this important? _____

Often, God wants us to wait and learn as He prepares us for a specific service; but He has work for every Christian to do no matter what stage of maturity we are in.

Read Romans 12:4-8.

3. In what way does God want you to serve the body of Christ? What Spiritual Gifts has He given you to bless your brothers and sisters? If you do not know, ask the Holy Spirit, who will reveal them to you. Often times a mature believer can also recognize your Spiritual gifts.

Verse 7- Joseph was not so wrapped up in his own circumstances that he could not see the needs of the cupbearer and baker. He saw that they were saddened. Write out Philippians 2:4.

Verse 8-

Ellicott's Commentary- "(8) **There is no interpreter.**—In Egypt it was the business of men trained for the purpose, called in Genesis 41:8, *magicians* and *wise men*, to interpret dreams, and to such the butler and baker could have no access from their prison. But Joseph denies that art and training can really avail, and claims that the interpretation belongs to God."

Read verses 9-13.

The cupbearer tells his dream and God interprets it through Joseph. He will be restored in three days.

4. Search Scripture for "three days" What did you find that was interesting?

In verse 14, it seems Joseph has the first hope of getting out of prison.

Read verses 16-19.

The baker, then reveals his dream to Joseph. His dream was similar to the cupbearer's, and he may have been encouraged by Joseph's pleasant interpretation. But he will have a very different outcome.

Read verses 20-22

It is important to note that Joseph's interpretation of both dreams was correct. If they did not come to pass, then his interpretation would not have been from God.

Deuteronomy 18:22, *"If the prophet speaks in the LORD's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the LORD did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared."* NLT

Verse 23 ends the chapter. *"Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."*

How often we forget what good the Lord has done for us.

5. Read Luke 17:11-19 What stands out to you the most about this account?

Read Psalm 111:1 Do you have the psalmist's thankful heart?

Read 1Corinthians 15:57. AMEN!

We will learn that Joseph waited another *two years* before God moved him from the prison. Pastor Skip said, "God's delays are not God's Denials." Joseph's dreams in Chapter 37 will be fulfilled in God's time.

6. Search Scripture for "Wait on the Lord." and "Wait for the Lord." Share two favorites.

7. What are you waiting for in your life?

We all are in a state of waiting for something. Some, for unsaved loved ones to come to the Lord. Some, for a Spouse. Some, for Children. Some, even waiting to die.

The redeemed are waiting for Jesus to return.

8. What should we be doing as we wait for the Lord's return?

"So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" "Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.""
Acts 1:7,8

In 1944, Corrie Ten Boom, her father and her sister Betsy were imprisoned for helping Jews escape the Nazis during the Holocaust. At Ravensbruck Concentration Camp, she was able to smuggle a Bible in with her and she and Betsy shared the Gospel, converting prisoners to Christianity. Before Betsy died, she told Corrie, "There is no pit so deep that He [God] is not deeper still." You can read Corrie's remarkable story, [The Hiding Place](#).

They were faithful witnesses in their trials, just as Joseph was. They understood the truth that Solomon stated in Ecclesiastes 12:13. *"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."*