



JOSEPH

SESSION 2

- **Main Passage:** Genesis 41:37-40
 - **Purpose:** To learn what it takes to be ready to be used by God at all times by looking at the life of Joseph.
 - **Session Snapshot:** One of the most essential characteristics of pursuing God in your life is being in a state of preparation so that you are ready to be used when the time comes. This requires a mind of discernment and a decisive spirit ready to lead with wisdom. God will call you to something. The question is, will you be ready?
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GETTING STARTED

Kick-off your time together with a quick connection time or reviewing what you did in the last session.

FIRST, remind your group that this is week 2 of their video series on Joseph and that it's part of a larger study looking at the real men of the Bible.

THEN, if you want to start with asking men for prayer requests, checking in on how their weeks have gone, or any other housekeeping tasks, do so. If you have men present in this session who were not in your first session, consider re-introducing yourself, and if necessary, having the men in your group do the same.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

DIGGING IN

Jump into the session by watching this week's video.

FIRST, if need be, remind your group of the basic structure of your time together. Remind them that you will watch a video that is usually about 15 minutes long, followed by a short discussion of the video. Then, you'll spend a few minutes in Bible study, followed by a closing activity. Consider encouraging men to take notes as they watch the video.

THEN, play the video.

When the video is over, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **Some of the stories about the men in Scripture can cause you to think, "That guy is special. I could never do that." What real man of the Bible seems like someone who you would never have the resolve or the fortitude to emulate?**

- **Why do you believe, as men, that we have that “voice” inside of us? Has there been a time or situation in your life that caused you to feel like you couldn’t live up to the example we see of men in the Bible?**
- **Rick said in the video, “We have a secular radio show, but it is for sure ran by Christians. We are in the world, but not of it.” When you think about your current context of your life, how does this statement challenge you?**
- **Can you think of a time in your life where you lived this out? A time when you had the opportunity to boldly take a stand for your faith in the face of a culture that is often opposed to our faith? Describe that time.**
- **Think about your life and your journey to be a prepared and discerning man of God. Share an area where you thrive. Share an area that you still need growth.**

FINALLY, transition into the *Opening the Word* portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **God is going to call you to do or say something. The question is, will you be prepared? Let's spend a few moments looking more intently at this session’s passage and learn from Joseph as he gives us a great example of what it means to be prepared.**

OPENING THE WORD

Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.

FIRST, explain that you’re going to take a more in-depth look at Genesis 41:1-40. As Rick stated in the video, God is always looking for men he can trust, but it is up to us to be prepared. In this passage, Joseph gives us a great example of being prepared to be used by God and how it can impact those around us.

We must make sure your people have a good understanding of the context of the passage you'll be studying. Provide the context for the passage using the following bullet points:

- **Author:** While there’s no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Genesis, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death!).
- **Time frame:** It's difficult to establish with any certainty a date for the completion of the Pentateuch (a name for the first five books of the Bible—including Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy—of which Genesis is a part). Most of the material originated from Moses himself. Depending on the date of the Exodus (which is also not known for sure), that would make a date for the writing of Genesis sometime in the 1400s or the 1200s BC.
- **Purpose:** Genesis details our world's earliest history, including creation and Adam and Eves' fall. It also focuses on the emergence of Israel, not only as God's people but as the group God would work through to bring redemption to the world.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Genesis 41:1, 9-16. When the volunteer has finished, lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **In verse 1, we read the phrase, “After two whole years . . .” After interpreting the dream of the cupbearer, Joseph sat in prison for two more years. The cupbearer forgot about the promise he made to**

remember to tell Pharaoh about Joseph. Has there been a time in your life where you felt like you were forgotten by someone or even by God? What made you feel this way?

- Answers will vary based on personal experiences.
- **Pharaoh had a dream, and then the chief cupbearer remembered the "young Hebrew" he had been in prison with. Joseph may have been forgotten for two years by the cupbearer but not by the Lord. God knew exactly the time when he was going to use Joseph to intervene with Pharaoh. In what ways do you see the results of Joseph waiting faithfully for God to use him?**
 - Answers will vary. A few accurate responses would be that Joseph remained faithful in his pursuit of the Lord because he was ready when called on, he trusted the Lord even though he didn't know what was next, and he remained faithful in his duties as a servant of the guard.
- **How do you respond when the Lord seems to move on a different timetable than you do?**
 - Answers will vary. This question will be a great tool to dig in with your group on waiting on the Lord and trusting that He is preparing us for what He has next for us.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Verse 16 is critical to us as we become men who use our waiting to help our preparation and readiness. Pharaoh looked to Joseph for answers. Joseph wisely directed Pharaoh to God, the one that would provide the answers he sought. Never forget that the Lord is the one that directs us as we pursue Him. Let's look more intently at what being prepared and ready to be utilized by the Lord looks like.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to Genesis 41:37-39. Then, ask:

- **In verses 17-36, we read the dream that Pharaoh had interpreted by Joseph. It's quite a robust dream, and as Joseph finishes, we are given vs. 37 and 38: "This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants." Pharaoh was astonished by the power of the Spirit of God speaking through Joseph in vs. 38. Why do you believe that Pharaoh could sense that the Spirit of God was in Joseph? If asked, do you believe others would say the same about you?**
 - Answers will vary. A good response will be centered around the clarity, wisdom, and decisiveness with which Joseph responded. He answered with an authoritative clarity and wisdom because he had spent an incredible amount of time with the Lord.
- **In verse 39, Pharaoh calls Joseph the most "discerning and wise" in all the land. He recognizes that God showed this interpretation to Joseph, but it is Joseph that communicated it. Joseph is deeply rooted in God because he has spent years pursuing God. What are your decisions, your discernment, and your wisdom rooted in? Where do you tend to get sidetracked?**
 - Answers will vary but should have a theme of having roots in knowing God and making Him known. Joseph could discern and was wise because he was focused on the Lord. We, like Joseph, should have our focus on him no matter the circumstances in our lives.
- **How do vs. 37-39 challenge you in your pursuit of God?**
 - Answers will vary based on the challenges each man is facing. The central answer is that each member of your group must be ready to be used by the Lord at a moment's notice. The best way to be ready is to be in pursuit of Him constantly.

THEN, read Genesis 41:39-40, then ask:

- **Because Joseph was discerning and wise, he earned Pharaoh's trust. Joseph was forgotten for two years by the cupbearer. But then we read that he is being placed as the second most powerful person in Egypt. This was no accident. Joseph had been committed to God, and God was now using him to rescue Egypt. God knew He could trust Joseph with his name and with this responsibility. Do you believe God can trust**

you? Why or why not? What can you learn from these verses to push you to pursue God more than anything else?

- Answers will vary based on the stage of life of the members of your group.

FINALLY, say something like:

- **God wants to prepare you for what He plans to entrust you with. Commit yourself to discipleship. Don't squander the opportunity to pursue God in all situations. Welcome His teaching, His preparation, and His direction in your life.**

Ask if there are any questions, and if there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Focus your group's attention on one key takeaway from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Consider starting this portion of your session by asking your group what they think are the main application points from your session. Allow discussion to go until there are no more suggestions.

Then, if necessary, supplement your discussion with the following application points. Say something like:

- **Do you see your current day-to-day life as an opportunity to learn from the Lord, or are you always looking for what's next?**
 - Rick said God will release you when you have learned everything He wants you to learn. Spend time defining your current view of your day-to-day life.
- **Most men aren't prepared. We must commit ourselves to discipleship.**
 - We can't squander the call to prepare ourselves to do God's work. God is always looking for men he can trust. What is your current commitment to discipleship? Will you commit to a deep pursuit of God in all areas of your life?
- **Can others trust you to be a man of spiritual discernment and wisdom? Can God trust you?**
 - Are you ready for God to use you? These are questions that we must deeply consider and posture our lives in such a way that our answer can be "yes."

If it feels appropriate, allow some discussion about the kind of processing they find themselves doing.

FINALLY, encourage men to continue to marinate on these points in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is trying to tell them and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.