Water of Life Community Church
JOURNEY INTO DESTINY
THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
WEEK #7
GENESIS 41

LEADER NOTES
Your Participants will only see the text noted in **bold**.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever had a dream that came true? Tell your group about your experience.

OPEN IN PRAYER

Lord Jesus; we cannot know what will happen tomorrow or in our futures. We do know that You do, and that You are looking out for our good. As we learn to trust in Your leading, help us to keep our integrity close to us. No matter who is looking, or who is not looking, we know that we live to honor You and You alone. Thank you for keeping us in good times and bad. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WORSHIP

If you're looking for help with worship, head to https://vimeo.com/album/2977729 and choose a couple of the songs you find there. The password is wolsg. Worship is also available at the beginning of each teaching video on our YouTube channel at mywolgroup.com.

INTRODUCTION

Joseph waited in prison for two whole years after he correctly interpreted dreams for two of Pharaoh's workers. Even though he asked to be remembered, he wasn't. Then a day, out of the blue, the worker who promised to tell Pharaoh about Joseph remembered Joseph. Was Joseph ready for what came next?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

1. READ GENESIS 41:1, 8, 12-13.

a. Joseph was waiting to be released from prison and had to wait. Have you ever been at the end of your rope and thought you would be rescued only to find that God just gave you a little more rope? How did you take that?

b. Joseph did not know that Pharaoh was dreaming and needed an interpreter until Joseph was summoned from prison. When have you been called upon to serve without notice? Were you ready?

Joseph was waiting without knowing what was going on around him. However, God was in control and was putting things in play at the right time for Joseph. We too, can be waiting for God to put things into place without being able to see the pieces being moved around.

c. It took time for Joseph's heart to become as gold. Integrity is worthless until it is tested. When was a time when your integrity was tested? How did you fare?

d. We all cheered for Joseph when he was finally released from prison to interpret Pharaoh's dream. But the test was not interpreting the dream. The test was what followed. What happened after Joseph interpreted the dream?

Testing is what helps us grow and mature. When we avoid testing, or try to get out of it, we miss the most important part of life and we cannot grow without it. Do you embrace testing? The test after the interpretation was the appointment Joseph received to leadership and power.

2. READ GENESIS 41:16-32.

a. In the scripture above, how many times did Joseph tell Pharaoh that God was to credit for the dreams and interpretation?

b. Joseph did not hesitate to give credit to God for the dreams and interpretation. Do you think Joseph realized that by saying that, he could have been forfeiting his only chance to get out of prison?

Joseph told Pharaoh 4 times that God had given the dream and its interpretation. He did not take any credit at all for himself. In giving credit to God, he placed himself in God's hands and

did not promote himself. He could have seemed insignificant to Pharaoh and been sent right back to prison, but Joseph trusted God and honored God.

c. Joseph had learned to interpret dreams when he was a kid. He could have interpreted Pharaoh's dream anytime…but God made Joseph wait. Being able to interpret the dream was God's gift and Joseph gave God credit. In what ways do we often think our gift is our own?

d. After Joseph interpreted the dream, things happened very quickly. He was thrust into a position of authority and leadership immediately. He had only one chance at this, and being a foreigner and a slave, there was no room for mistakes. Do you think God's timing for Joseph was best when you realize what was at stake?

Joseph was leading a nation that was foreign to him. While Pharaoh was glad to make Joseph his second in command, there were likely others who were not. Joseph had to know what he was doing without making mistakes. Without the training Joseph received in the time he waited, he may not have been ready for the position God gave him over Egypt.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- **Take some time to write down a list of things God has done in your life. List things like answers to prayer, breakthroughs you have gotten, praise reports, healing, things to be thankful for, and fulfillment of dreams. Meditate on these individually for a few minutes quietly. Through the week, thank Him, letting your praise to Him continually be on your lips.**

Ask your group members to pray in twos and let them practice telling each other about what God has done for them. Challenge them to make this a regular practice in prayer.

TAKING IT HOME

What is one way this week that you can honor God first when something you have wanted or prayed for happens? Will you find someone this week that you can share with about a time when God met you while you were in a dark place?

Also … Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "edevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week's theme.

MEMORY VERSE

John 3:30

"He must increase but I must decrease."

COMMENTARY

For further commentary reading, please visit:
https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Gen/Gen_041.cfm