

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Genesis

Scripture: Genesis 40:41-57

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by inviting the group to thank God for His presence, ask for trust in slow or difficult seasons, and pray for encouragement in each other's current situations. Include a request that God would grow your faith and unity through this study.

Give Background & Context:

Joseph was betrayed, enslaved, and imprisoned—yet remained faithful. In Genesis 40–41, he interprets dreams in prison, is forgotten for two years, and then suddenly elevated to second-in-command of Egypt. The sermon emphasized that sin is not the only threat to our faith—discouragement and delay are too. Joseph shows us what it looks like to be faithful in waiting, humble in opportunity, and grounded in success.

- Read Genesis 40:1–23
 - What does Joseph's care for the cupbearer and baker show about his heart, even while in prison?
 - Why do you think Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him (v. 14)? What does this tell us about his hope?
 - How would you respond to being forgotten for two more years (41:1)?
- Read Genesis 41:1–36
 - How does Joseph respond when summoned before Pharaoh? What stands out about his humility and clarity? (v. 16)
 - The sermon reminded us: “Be faithful where you are so you’re ready when God moves.” How was Joseph prepared for this moment?
 - Have you ever seen God use a long waiting season to prepare you for something significant?
 - How can we stay spiritually ready when we don’t know what God is preparing us for?
- Read Genesis 41:37–57
 - What does Pharaoh recognize in Joseph (v. 38–39), and how does that connect to Joseph's consistent character?
 - Joseph names his sons Manasseh and Ephraim. What do those names reveal about how he processed his past and pain?
 - What does this chapter teach us about trusting God with both timing and influence?
 - How can we remain grounded in God’s presence when things finally start to go right?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - The sermon emphasized: “Be faithful in the place where you are.” What makes that hard in real life—especially when you feel overlooked?
 - Read Galatians 6:9. What seeds of faithfulness can you keep planting today, even if the harvest feels far off?
 - Joseph was faithful in prison, ready when Pharaoh called, and humble in promotion. Which season—waiting, opportunity, or success—do you find hardest to navigate?