

## COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

*This study guide is meant to help you learn and apply the truths of Scripture to your life right now, both individually and with your community group. To get the most from these guides, work through it on your own before gathering with your community group. If you aren't in a community group, consider attending the next Starting Point at Mercy Church, where you can take the next steps to connect with a community group in your area. RSVP at [mercycharlotte.com/connect](http://mercycharlotte.com/connect).*

### For Our Good: The Life of Joseph - Part 4

#### INTRODUCTION

**LEADER NOTES:** Welcome your members to the group. Use the discussion questions to help your group members observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures to life.

#### **THE BIG IDEA: The gospel gives peace in the turbulence of life.**

Genesis 40 and 41 bring us to the story of Joseph's interaction with Pharaoh in Egypt. The section begins by explaining that the cupbearer and baker for Pharaoh acted against Pharaoh and were put into custody in the same prison where Joseph was located. While in custody, both the cupbearer and baker had separate dreams. Joseph first interprets the cupbearer's dream and points to the glory of God. Joseph tells the cupbearer that he will be restored to his office in three days. Sound familiar? Upon hearing the favorable nature of the interpretation, the baker has Joseph interpret his dream as well. However, Joseph told the baker that he would be hanged on the third day. Sure enough, after 3 days, both dreams became reality.

After another two years, Pharaoh has a sequence of dreams. Pharaoh dreams first about seven ugly cows consuming seven attractive cows. He then dreams about seven thin stalks of grain consuming seven healthy stalks of grain. After the dreams, Pharaoh brought about the wise men in Egypt, yet none of them could help him interpret the dream. The cupbearer then tells Pharaoh that Joseph interpreted his dream. Pharaoh calls Joseph to interpret his dream. Joseph interprets the dream and explaining the seven lean years of famine to come. Pharaoh sees that something is

different with Joseph and gives him power over the land. Once again God opens a door for Joseph to glorify him in the midst of struggle.

God continued to use Joseph to bring about his promises. God provided Joseph the opportunity to interact with Pharaoh, the most important man in Egypt. Joseph trusted the sovereignty of God even in prison. When God opened the door, Joseph faithfully shared the truth, first to the cupbearer, then to the baker (even though it was about his death), and then to Pharaoh about the impending famine. Joseph realized he had God's favor, but never used it to bring glory to himself. Instead, he followed God's command and direction and became an instrument in the almighty hand of God.

## STUDY AND DISCUSSION

**LEADER NOTES:** *These questions are here to help your group get their minds re-engaged with the passage and teaching points from the weekend message. Think of this as "priming the pump" for a more interactive discussion in your time together.*

In the message we saw the constant presence of God in Joseph's life. These questions are a good reference point to help you see God's work in your own walk.

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How can I leverage my life to bless others in a way that brings glory to God?

## INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

The following questions are designed to help you gain understanding of what the Bible teaches.

**LEADER NOTES:** *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

### Read Genesis 40 - 41

1. Throughout his story, Joseph experiences a long season of imprisonment and struggle. Have you ever had a time in life where your struggle never seemed to end?

2. God continues to use Joseph even in prison. What truth does this revealed about God's character?
3. How should this truth about God change your perspective when you are suffering?
4. What stands about Joseph's character as he interprets the dreams? What are some areas in your own life where you see a lack of this character?
5. What can we learn from the way Joseph handles the favor he receives from both God and Pharaoh?
6. Have you ever experienced a time where God used you to bring his truth and love in the midst of difficulty? How has God used others to bless you in this way?
7. What are some ways you can use God's blessing in your life to bless others?

## TAKEAWAYS

These questions are intention to help you apply the truths from Genesis 40-41 to your own walk with the Lord.

1. What is holding you back from the type of faith Joseph exhibits?
2. What is one way God is calling you to be a blessing to others?

## PRAYER

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

**LEADER NOTES:** *The following is designed simply as an outline for you to use in your group prayer time. Feel free to make this your own and adjust it to fit your group.*

1. Pray that God will open doors for you to be a blessing.
2. Pray for humility as God uses you to be a blessing (James 4:10).
3. Pray for a lasting impact and blessing in our city.

