

Small Group Study Guide, Week of May 18, 2025

Genesis 40 (39:19-40:23): “The Dreams of the Chiefs”

Q: Where is God when we do what is right but get what is unfair?

Big Idea: Even when life seems unfair, God is accomplishing His plan as He personally guides us.

Ice Breaker: If you’re comfortable, share a recurring or particularly meaningful dream you’ve had.

Dig:

1. How did Joseph, a Hebrew slave, wind up in the same prison with two of Pharaoh’s top officials? How does Joseph show concern for the cupbearer and the baker?
2. On what basis does Joseph offer to interpret the dreams of his companions in prison? What does that tell you about Joseph and his relationship with God? What does that tell you about God and His relationship with Joseph?
3. Compare and contrast the two dreams as to their themes and specific elements and outcomes. How does the first interpretation set the stage for the second? How do you know Joseph didn’t just make lucky guesses about the meanings of these dreams? Why might the chief cupbearer forget Joseph? How do you think this might make Joseph feel?

Apply:

4. What dreams for your future have been realized? Which ones have not? How do these affect your relationship with God? What in this passage gives you hope?
5. Who has “forgotten” you? Who have you “forgotten”? What help and/or direction do you take away from this study?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)