



## **WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE: JOSEPH'S RISE TO POWER**

### **LOOKING TO GOD'S WORD:**

Read GENESIS 40-41. Share any SOAP Journal Entries from this passage.

1. The king's cupbearer and baker offended him, resulting in their being thrown into prison with Joseph. What do you learn about Joseph from the way he responded to them in prison?
2. The rest of the chapter tells of their dreams, Joseph's interpretation of the dreams, and how the interpretations were later fulfilled. In Genesis 40:14-15 and 20-23, how was life once again "unfair" to Joseph?
3. In verses 40:8 and 41:16, Joseph makes a bold statements that could have had a negative impact on him. What were those statements? What does that tell us about Joseph's character?
4. Why did Pharaoh place Joseph in charge of Egypt? How old was he at this point? (41:38-46)

### **LOOKING INWARD**

5. How can you keep a proper perspective when you know you have been "wronged" by others and you are paying the unjustified consequences?
6. When have you felt like there were "delays" in your life? Have the last few months felt like your life was in a delay?
7. V. Raymond Edman wrote, "Delay never thwarts God's purposes; it only polishes His instrument." (R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis: Beginning and Blessing*, Wheaton: Crossway, 2004, 473.) How are you allowing God to use you right where you are?
8. Joseph's life teaches us that disappointments are vital to spiritual growth because they demand faith and resting all hope upon God. How have you seen God's hand in the "delays" in your life?

**PRAYER:** To be patient and allow God to "polish" you.

# SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

*Read: Genesis 42-45*

**S – Scripture** – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

**O – Observation** – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

**A – Application** – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

**P – Prayer** – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.