

# FINDING PURPOSE UNCERTAINTY

**LESSON 3**

**| Confined but Courageous**

**| Genesis 40**

## Have you ever felt forgotten?

That is how Joseph must have felt when he was stuck in an Egyptian prison. In this study, we learn how to trust God despite our situation.

*The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. GENESIS 40:23 (NIV)*

Chapter 40 includes one of the saddest verses in Joseph's story, Genesis 40:23, "The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him." Wrongly imprisoned, Joseph chose to live righteously. Scholars do not know Joseph's age when he entered prison. However, we do know he was 28 when he interpreted the dreams of his fellow prisoners.

As we continue to see, dreams play a large part in Joseph's story, as they do in other parts of the Bible. There are 21 dreams recorded in the Bible. Fifteen dreams are found in the Old Testament, and six in the New Testament. Dreams and dream interpretation were a large part of ancient culture. God spoke to people through dreams, and He continues, according to Acts 2:17 (ESV):

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."



- 1 | What new insight did you learn from Pastor Dale's sermon on Genesis 40?
  
- 2 | **Read Genesis 40.** What is the setting of this entire chapter?
  
- 3 | Can you think of ways in which Joseph's experiences are training him for his future role as prime minister?
  
- 4 | Have you experienced situations in your life you may not have understood at the time but which prepared you for future circumstances? Explain.
  
- 5 | What impresses you about Joseph's response in his seemingly hopeless situations? (You may also refer to chapter 39.)
  
- 6 | What wisdom do you find in the following verses, especially in regards to our attitude in uncertain times?
  - Proverbs 11:25
  - Matthew 5:14-16
  - Colossians 3:23, 24
  - Titus 2:8-9



- 7 | How does Joseph show concern for the cupbearer and baker?
- 8 | What insight into Joseph's thoughts are we given in Genesis 40:14-15?
- 9 | Have you ever been in a prolonged, discouraging situation and felt you had been neglected or forgotten? Explain.
- 10 | **Read Matthew 27:45-46.** What insight does this passage give us?
- 11 | What encouragement do you find in the following verses?
- Psalm 62:8
  - Isaiah 41:10-13
  - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
  - James 1:2-4
- 12 | Think of someone you know who is likely feeling overlooked or forgotten. What can you do this week to encourage him or her?

