

FINDING PURPOSE UNCERTAINTY

LESSON 4

| Positioned with Purpose

| Genesis 41

From prisoner to prime minister, Joseph's status quickly elevates in his new position.

When we are redeemed in Christ, we receive benefits and privileges as well. The benefits and privileges of the Gospel bring us new life and hope.

Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief." Genesis 41:51-52 (NLT)

Joseph is 30 years old when he enters Pharaoh's service (Genesis 41:46). He became second-in-command, likely a grand vizier or prime minister, the highest office under the king. Pharaoh gave Joseph the three symbols of royalty: the signet ring (Esther 3:10), the robe (Esther 6:11) and the gold chain (Daniel 5:7, 16, 29). How did all of this come about?

"Joseph has been appointed, chosen, selected, prepared and refined into gold by Almighty God. That's how he has come to wear the ring. That's how he has come to get the robe, the necklace and the chariot. That's why others are saying, "Bow the knee." Joseph himself isn't saying that; others are." (Swindoll, 67)

Are you allowing the Almighty God to prepare you for what's next in your life? In this study we'll learn more about the monumental change in Joseph's life, along with how God can make a monumental change in our own lives.

- 1 | What is something you learned from Pastor Dale's sermon on Genesis 41?

- 2 | How long had the cupbearer forgotten Joseph?

- 3 | Compare the Joseph of chapter 37 to the Joseph we find in chapter 41. How has he changed? (See Genesis 37:5-7, 40:8, 41:16.)

- 4 | How do you account for this change?

- 5 | Pharaoh has two different dreams with the same meaning. What do the dreams signify and why did he experience them twice? (v. 32)

- 6 | What is Joseph's recommendation to Pharaoh and how does Pharaoh respond?

- 7 | What benefits does Joseph receive along with his new position?

- 8 | Pharaoh has, in a way, redeemed Joseph. He has lifted him out of his suffering and given him a new life. When we enter into a relationship with Christ, He redeems us from sins and gives us a new life. Being a follower of Christ brings many benefits and privileges to believers. Read the following verses to learn some of them.
- John 1:12
 - Romans 8:10-11
 - Romans 6:23
 - Colossians 1:13-14
 - Romans 6:14
 - Galatians 5:22-24
 - John 15:15
 - John 16:33
- 9 | Which one of the above benefits did you seek most when you became a follower of Christ? Why do you think that attribute attracted you to Christ more than others?
- 10 | When you look at secular society today, do you think people see benefits of the Christian life? What benefits do they see?
- 11 | Do you have any ideas of how we, as a body of believers, can highlight these benefits to draw people closer to a relationship with Jesus Christ?
- 12 | Joseph does a masterful job preparing Egypt for the coming years of famine. He shows wisdom, enthusiasm and organization in his work. How have the past years of suffering prepared him for this position?



13 | Joseph's wife, Asenath, bore him two sons. What are their names and what do they mean? (vv. 50-52)

14 | What do we learn about God throughout this story?

15 | What do we learn about the purpose of suffering in the following verse?

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:3-4

16 | How has God used suffering in your life for His good and eternal purposes?

Here is a link to [Find Your Purpose](#). This will help you answer the question, **"If you could design a ministry to serve God around your unique gifts and passions, what would it be?"** Go through this interactive experience and spend some time thinking about how God desires to use you for His good and eternal purposes.



The acronym S.H.A.P.E. was developed by Rick Warren in his bestselling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. It refers to five specific characteristics (**S**piritual Gifts, **H**earth, **A**bilities, **P**ersonality, **E**xperiences) that make up who you are.

17 | What are your top spiritual gifts? Have you seen evidence of these gifts in past ministry opportunities?

18 | What is your “heart” (things that bring you joy and fulfillment)? Who do you love to work with most? What area of ministry excites or concerns you most?

19 | What are your abilities? What types of jobs have you held? What special talents or skills do you have?

20 | How would you describe your personality?

21 | Briefly, what is your testimony of how you became a Christian? What is your ministry experience? What past experiences have made a big impact on who you are today?

22 | What was your biggest surprise about your S.H.A.P.E.?

