



## Life Group Study Notes

### "Dreamworks"

Ps. James Lowe - September 24, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you were to characterize your childhood with one word, what would it be? Why?
- What was your biggest challenge during your teenage years?
- Who was the best boss or coach you have had? Why were they so good?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

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*Psalms 105:17-19 ESV [God] had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what [God] had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.*

God was testing Joseph through the evil that was done to him by sinful people. The proving of Joseph's character was essential preparation for his leadership calling. He never could have played the important role he fulfilled in God's overall plan of redemption, if he had not gone through his trials and responded well by trusting in God.

When Joseph was in prison, he was used by God to help an imprisoned royal official gain his release. Joseph appealed to the man to remember him and help get him released from his own unjust punishment once the man was restored to his former royal position.

*Genesis 40:13-15 ESV "In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."*

Nevertheless, the man forgot Joseph, who continued to languish in jail.

*Genesis 40:20-23 ESV On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he*

*placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

Two years went by until Pharaoh was troubled by prophetic dreams he couldn't understand. It was then that the cupbearer remembered Joseph, who had helped him by interpreting his own dream. Upon learning this, Pharaoh then summoned Joseph.

Joseph was able to interpret the dreams, which were warnings of future economic disaster for the kingdom. Pharaoh and his leaders were so impressed with Joseph's insight and proposal to avert disaster that Pharaoh elevated him to the highest level of administrative leadership in Egypt.

*Genesis 41:37-41 ESV This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."*

All the trials Joseph had experienced prepared him for this moment. From the rest of Scripture we know that Joseph didn't give in to bitterness and vengeance. He didn't use his newfound power and authority to exact a vendetta against all who had wronged him over the past thirteen years.

In many ways Joseph was a foreshadowing of Jesus, who also suffered injustice. Jesus didn't retaliate, but even forgave his executioners as he was dying a horrific, painful death on the cross. Like Joseph, God exalted Jesus, not to a position of limited power and authority, but to the highest level in heaven and on earth.

Jesus has promised to do the same in our lives. As we forgive those who sin against us, we invite the favor of God upon our lives. God will be with us throughout our journey in this life, blessing us with his presence and wisdom and goodness. In heaven and in the resurrection age, God will reward us over and above, eclipsing all that we suffer in the present time. No injustice suffered will fail to be overturned and overtaken by God's justice and goodness toward us. All of this will happen because of what Jesus has already done on the cross. He is God's guarantee of an everlasting future of righteousness, peace, safety, and joy.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Are there people you need to forgive from your past?
- Pain from past hurts is real. What are some ways God brings healing from this pain?
- Who are the people God wants you to help pull out of a spiritual or other "pit"?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for Jesus who forgave and forgives all of our sins.
- Ask God for grace to forgive all who have hurt you in the past.
- Ask God for healing for the pain that comes from past hurts.