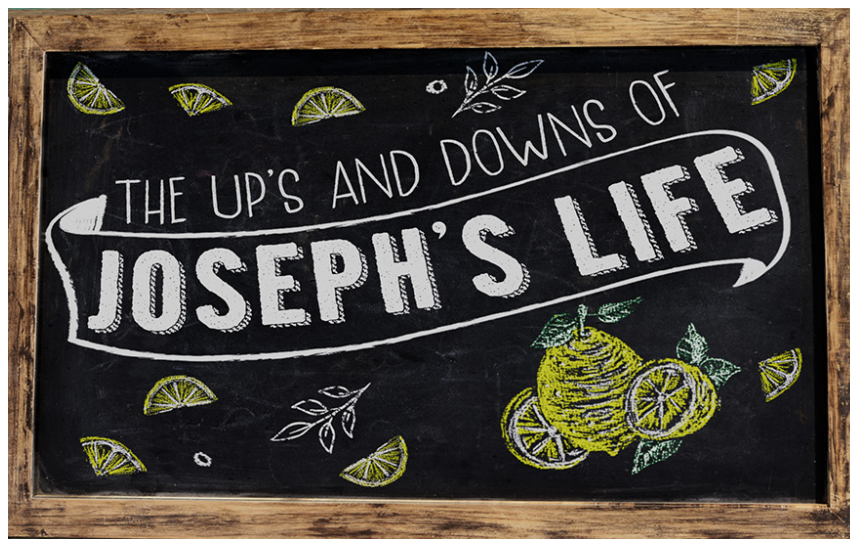


## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

MARCH 05, 2023



### LEADER

We are coming up on Spring Break for FBISD, LCISD and HISD (March 13-18). There will be no Sermon Discussion Guide posted on March 12. If your group is meeting take this opportunity to enjoy a social week with your group! Organize a group dinner, meet up for dessert or get together for Thursday's service and grab pizza beforehand.

### READ

Genesis 40:1-7

### QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you about Joseph's posture and how he responds to the cupbearer and baker in prison?
- Joseph refused the temptation to feel sorry for himself and become bitter. When life was unfair, he made a choice. The life we have and the kind of person we become are shaped by our choices. What was the posture of the cupbearer and baker in

verse 7? (Their faces were sad, gloomy, and unhappy; their world shrank to only themselves and their problems)

- Joseph has been robbed of his father, hated by his brothers, sold as a slave, wrongly accused and imprisoned, and yet still shows compassion to the chief cupbearer and baker. What a hard thing to do. He didn't self-absorb or isolate and even though his life was not great, he cared about others. How does this message connect with your current experiences? Would you say a change of posture is needed?

## READ

Genesis 40:8-14

## QUESTIONS

- In verse 8 Joseph said, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." What does this passage reveal about Joseph's perspective on life, gifting and faith? (He depended on God no matter the circumstance)
- After Joseph shows compassion and care for the cupbearer and baker, what does he do next? (He served them by asking what he could do to help them, He did not withhold his gifting)

## READ

Genesis 40:23; 41:1a

## QUESTION

- How unfair for the cupbearer to forget Joseph! He was forgotten by the very person he helped. After two years passed, I bet Joseph wondered if he'd ever be released from prison. Recall a time when you faced a setback that kept you from making progress toward your goal. How did you handle it?

## READ

Genesis 41:14-16; 28-40

## QUESTIONS

- Joseph thought the gift of dream interpretation was given by God to get him out of jail, but God had a bigger plan. A plan that took a couple of years to unfold. When we despair we can't see a way out or a light at the end of the tunnel. We are convinced we know how things will turn out and not even God can do something.

Then God does something unexpected.

- He never expected to have an audience with the Pharaoh
- He never expected to be heard or believed
- He never expected to be put in charge of a country

How can we expect the unexpected in our story? (Have faith in God in all circumstances, trust God has not left you, understand God's heart is for you, believe in the goodness of God, depend on God's plan and promise no matter how long it takes)

- What should we do until the unexpected occurs in our story? (Care about others, serve others, and grow in your faith)

**LEADERS:** Palm Sunday Baptism will be on Thursday, March 30 and Sunday, April 2.

Encourage people to sign up ([rpc.me/baptism](http://rpc.me/baptism) or [westend.me/baptism](http://westend.me/baptism)) and plan to come and support them. Baptism is a great next step of obedience for someone to take to grow their relationship with Christ. You don't have to be a member of RPC|WE to be baptized.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** We thank you, God that we are never alone or abandoned. Help us trust your plans, purpose and promises for our lives. In Jesus' Name – Amen.