

RESILIENT

WEEK 4

DAY 1: READ GENESIS 41:1-7

“When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream”. If I am in Joseph’s shoes, I would have given up on getting out of prison by now. Sometimes, God will break through when we least expect it. We can probably think back to a time in our life when we felt as if we were in a prison like Joseph. We were in physical, emotional, mental, or maybe even spiritual bondage. Maybe for you that time is right now. Have you lost all hope that God will still get you out? We serve a God that works off of a higher timetable and agenda than we do. Will you trust Him to breakthrough even after years have passed?

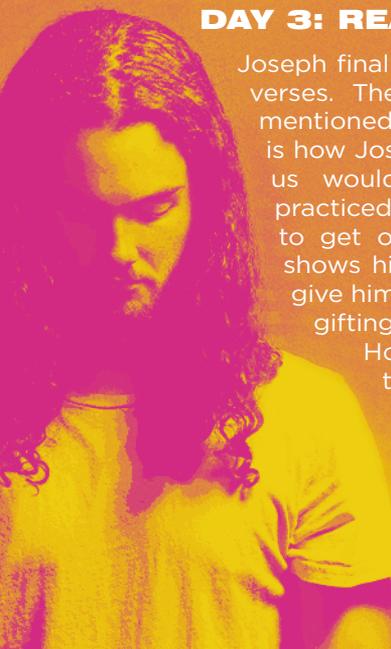
DAY 2: READ GENESIS 41:8

In this one verse, Pharaoh reminds us of a key human tendency: we seek help from people before seeking help from God Himself. You see, Pharaoh didn’t have any knowledge of God and frankly didn’t want to. So, he was content with simply going to people for help. The Psalms remind us that our help “comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2). You see, we have to come to the conclusion that even though people can help us with many things, there will eventually come a point when they let us down. And because they will let us down, we have to be willing to first seek out the God who never will.

DAY 3: READ GENESIS 41:9-14

Joseph finally got out of prison, as we are told in these verses. The cupbearer finally remembered him and mentioned him to Pharaoh. But the key to this section is how Joseph responds to his freedom. How many of us would have sought out the cupbearer and practiced frustration due to how long we had to wait to get out of prison? Instead, Joseph once again shows his focus. He knew God would be faithful to give him an opportunity, just like this one, to use the gifting God had given him: to interpret dreams. How many of us have missed opportunities like this in our own lives simply because we’ve haven’t been able to leave the past where it belongs?

DAY 3 CONTINUED...



Maybe people have hurt you, wronged you, walked out on you, or sinned against you in some way. What matters now is how you will respond to it. Will you seek to get even by carrying with you baggage and frustration from the past, or will you focus only on the present opportunity God is giving you to influence your future?

DAY 4: READ GENESIS 41:15-16

Joseph finally gets his chance to shine. Pharaoh has heard that he can interpret dreams. But once again, Joseph responds in humility. If there is one thing Joseph continually does throughout his entire life and story, it is simply pointing people back to God Himself. The truth is, we are going to be presented with many temptations to take the credit. The devil would love for us to be convinced that we are the ones doing the incredible things for God's Kingdom. But at the end of the day, we are a mere vessel that God works through. Maybe you find yourself in a place of pride, feeling as if you have accomplished great things on your own. Or maybe you haven't been willing to use God's gifting in your life because you don't feel worthy or good enough to be used by God. In either case, the truth is that only God holds the incredible power to change lives. Today, rediscover that you are not only a vessel, but you are a broken vessel. But most importantly, you're a broken vessel that can be used by God to make yourself and others whole!

DAY 5: READ GENESIS 41:25

Sometimes in your life, God will reveal glimpses of what is to come before they arrive. There is a certain level of mystery behind how God works. As Isaiah reminds us, His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. Maybe God has you in a pit of some kind, but He has shown you glimpses of the palace! Maybe God has you in a palace, but He has shown you glimpses of a pit that is to come for a purpose. Regardless of where you find yourself, we serve a God of preparation. He is constantly preparing us for where we are going next. Use the glimpses you've gotten of God's next open door as motivation to get there!

DAY 6: READ GENESIS 41:41

This verse is the climax of the story. Joseph finally gets put in charge of the whole land of Egypt. God could trust him with this great responsibility because he proved he could be faithful with little. Luke 16:10 tells us the same thing, when Jesus says in a parable, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much". What seed or small thing has God entrusted you with right now? You must choose to be faithful in the small things before God can trust you with bigger ones. Because the truth is, God desires to grow the seed into a fruitful tree. But He wants you to be best prepared to handle it when it comes.