



Joseph: Not Your Average Joe – Make wise choices

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL:

Genesis 41:1 tells us that Joseph has been sitting in prison for two long years since he helped the cupbearer and baker. When have you had to wait a really long time for God to move you forward in challenging circumstances? How did God move you forward? What is the most important thing you've learned about waiting?

Why do you think wisdom is connecting today's decisions with future outcomes? When have you done that and experienced the blessing of having done so? What decisions have you made that were shortsighted?

Do you think God's wisdom is more important in challenging or good times? Why?

How would using "the best question ever" have helped you in the last few decisions you've made? How would it affect an impending decision of yours?

In light of my past experiences, my current situation, and my future hopes and dreams...what is the wise thing to do?

How can you take the blessings you're experiencing and help others today? Gen 41:56-57.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God’s forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn’t take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.



An example prayer you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I'm broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer's resource: God Time: Your First 31 Days. Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!

Leader Guide

Wisdom is connecting today's decisions to tomorrow's results

Joseph: An ordinary person living a remarkable life through extraordinary circumstances.

To a great degree, our choices determine the course of our lives

There are 2 things that will change your life forever:

- 1) Committing your life to Jesus Christ.
- 2) Making wise choices

Genesis 41

Joseph made wise choices

Gen 41:1 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream:

Pharaoh's dreams:

- 1) 7 fat healthy cows are devoured by 7 skinny cows
- 2) 7 healthy ears of corn are swallowed up by 7 thin ears of corn

Summons his counselors and no one can tell him what this all means. He knows it means something.



Cupbearer recalls

9 “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings... 12 Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no-one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

With God’s help, Joseph interprets the dream and also provides wise advice:

- Each dream says the same thing: you will have 7 years of abundance followed by 7 years of drought (and famine if you don’t act now).

But then Joseph offers this (wise) advice:

Use the years of abundance to store up reserves in order to get through the drought years.

38 So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, **there is no-one so discerning and wise as you.**

1. Wise choices connect the decisions of today with the outcomes of tomorrow.

Both wise and unwise choices have results in the future.

Gal 6:7 A man reaps what he sows.

Pr 21:20 In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.

Live today like no one else so that in the future you can live like no one else. — Dave Ramsey

2. Wise choices are the result of inviting God into the decision making process.



16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

Invite God into your decision making before you're desperate

3. Wise choices will break the chains of your past unwise choices.

Joseph consistently made wise choices, even when life was dealing dirty with him.

51 Joseph named his firstborn **Manasseh** and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” 52 The second son he named **Ephraim** and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”

- Manasseh: *to forget. God has Manassehed me!*
- Ephraim: *twice fruitful. God has Ephraimed me!*

Eph 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,

The wisest most life-changing question you can ever ask yourself:

In light of my past experiences, my current situation, and my future hopes and dreams ... what is the wise thing to do?

From Ask It. Andy Stanley

Gen 41:57 And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.