

## Bible Studies in Genesis

### In your Dreams

#### READ Genesis 41:1-40

1. Discuss any questions you have about this passage ...
2. Discuss (or look up) what has happened between the time Joseph was sold into slavery (chapter 37) and this point.
3. Who is it that gave Pharaoh these dreams (verse 25), and who is that interprets Pharaoh's dreams (verse 16)?
  - a. Why would Joseph help the Egyptians, given all he has gone through?
  - b. Why would God help the Egyptians?
4. What kind of man does Joseph say Pharaoh needs to put in charge (verse 33), and how does Pharaoh describe the man he is looking for (verse 37)? What is the relationship between these two descriptions? What does this tell us about the nature of wisdom?
5. Reading on, we find that Joseph gets married (verse 45), and has children (verses 50-52) ...
  - a. What do you make of his marriage, in the light of such passages as Deuteronomy 7:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-17?
  - b. What do the names of his sons tell us about how he's thinking about what has been happening in his life?
6. Reading further, we see that Joseph doesn't just help the Egyptians, but all of their neighbours (verses 56-57). How do you think this relates to what God had promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3? To what extent have the promises of Genesis 12:1-3 been fulfilled at this point, and what still has not yet been fulfilled?
7. Read Acts 7:10 ...
  - a. What does this tell us about how God is at work in the life of Joseph, even in Egypt? What does this tell us about how God is at work in our lives? [see Deuteronomy 31:8; John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 2:10; James 1:2-5;
  - b. What quality or characteristic of Joseph is highlighted in this verse? How ought our faith express itself in trying circumstances, or when we are living in an ungodly community? [see Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 4:7-9; 1 Peter 2:12] Can you think of any situations in your life where you need to apply this?