

These questions are for the October 9, 2026, message, “Forgotten Again” Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 40:1-23) out loud.

Passage Outline

When God feels hidden in adversity . . .

1. He is building Joseph’s character (1-8).
 - a) God continues to test Joseph in his area of weakness / disappointment (dreams).
 - b) Character is who we are before God.
 - 1) It’s formed in the gap between our circumstance and God’s promises.
 - 2) Dream #1 (Gen 37): Joseph is brash and self-promoting.
 - 3) Dream #2 (Gen 40): Joseph is humble and compassionate.
2. He is teaching Joseph to serve (9-19).
 - a) Joseph could have retreated to his cell’s corner and sulked in anger / frustration.
 - b) Instead, he was “attending,” compassionate and willing to help.
 - 1) With a gift from God, Joseph correctly interprets the two dreams.
 - 2) Joseph asks the Cupbearer to remember him in Pharaoh’s presence.
3. He is settling Joseph’s future (20-23).
 - a) The Cupbearer forgets about Joseph for two years (41:1).
 - 1) This acquaintance in jail positions Joseph to (eventually) get to Pharaoh.
 - 2) God never wastes our past but invests it (even if we must wait longer).
 - b) See Jesus! He was “stolen” from His rightful position, innocent, but accused, had an interplay with two guilty criminals, one who begged, “Remember me” (Luke 23:39-43).
 - 1) God can be trusted to never forget you.
 - 2) Jesus: “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: When God feels hidden in adversity He is building our character. He’s changing us from the inside-out. He is reshaping who we are and how we think. He’s breaking our selfishness. How has God changed a selfish attitude of yours through adversity? How have you gone from “self-promoting” to “others first”?
2. Based on #1, above: Joseph crafted his words to plant a seed to the Egyptian palace officials: “Do not interpretations belong to God?” We can’t interpret like Joseph, but we can unflinchingly and faithfully speak about all that we have seen God accomplish. How are you improving in skill and bravery to speak openly to unbelievers about what you have seen God doing?
3. Based on #2, above: In a dark pit, with no fanfare or witnesses, while he waited longer, Joseph accepted his tiny platform and learned to serve His Lord. He took action and busied his hands and body in the task of doing good to others. In what way is God using adversity to teach you to serve?
4. Based on #3, above: When God feels hidden, He is not. He is at work in your adversity. The key is that we learn to wait faithfully. How has God worked good for you from hard or bad circumstances? In what way do you feel forgotten right now? How can you “preach the Gospel” to yourself?
5. Based on #3: Jesus was the only innocent one between two thieves. One was saved and the other lost. One asked Jesus to “Remember me” (Luke 23:42)! Jesus responded, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” Discuss this: People may forget, but “God can be trusted to never forget me.”