



## Discussion Guide

Date: 9/14/2025

Sermon Title: When will I have enough to help my neighbor?

Scripture: Genesis 40:1-8

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious and loving God, Thank You for meeting us here today. As we reflect on the life of Joseph, help us to recognize the places in our lives where You are calling us to serve others—especially when we feel like we're in a dungeon of our own. May Your Spirit guide our discussion, soften our hearts, and awaken our imagination to dream not only for ourselves, but for the good of others. Amen.*

### Opening Question:

1. When you were a child, what did you dream of becoming or doing? Has that dream changed over time?

### Digging into the Word:

Read Genesis 40:1-8 aloud as a group or individually. Consider reading it twice, with a moment of silent reflection in between.

1. What do you notice about Joseph's behavior here compared to earlier in his life (Last week we discussed Genesis 37, especially v.5–11)?
2. How does his question "Why are your faces downcast today?" reflect a change in his priorities?
3. Joseph interprets the dreams of the cupbearer and baker—not his own. Why is this significant? What does it show about his growth in character or faith?
4. Verse 8 says, "Do not interpretations belong to God?" How does this statement show humility and dependence on God?
5. Have you ever experienced a time in your life when, like Joseph, you were in a "dungeon" but found a way to care for someone else? What did that teach you about grace or purpose?

Other scripture to consider: Philippians 2:2-3; Matthew 25:40; Galatians 6:2

### Wesleyan Insights

John Wesley emphasized the means of grace, including acts of mercy and service to others as essential to Christian growth. He believed that God's sanctifying grace works in us when we serve.

6. In what ways might helping others—even in our own seasons of pain—be a means of grace?
7. Wesley also believed we are not perfected in love alone, but in community. How does this passage speak to the idea that we find healing as we help others?

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can..." — John Wesley

8. How does this challenge or inspire you in this season?

first united methodist church

*Richardson*

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How do you think Joseph maintained his faith and resilience during the 13 years between being sold into slavery at 17 and his eventual rise to power at 30?
2. In the sermon Pastor Clayton references Genesis 39:21, “But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love”. Where in your life can you point to God being with you and showing steadfast love? What does it mean to you personally that 'God's steadfast love never leaves your side,' and how might this belief impact daily life?
3. Pastor Clayton said that Joseph through all his adversity “didn’t get bitter, he got better”, he used his gifts to advance God’s kingdom. What might have changed if he got bitter? Are there areas in your life that you are more bitter than an attitude of getting better?
4. In the sermon we hear about reaching the children and youth of now and into the future. How are you modeling and sharing God’s love with the next generation? How can we as a church be a community for this generation and the next and so on?

### **Applying it:**

1. In what ways can we cultivate a sense of God's 'steadfast love' in our own lives, especially during challenging times?
2. Joseph had no material wealth in prison, yet he gave what he had—his time, compassion, and attention. What does this say about what it means to “have enough” to help your neighbor?
3. How can we balance ambition and humility in our own lives, learning from both Joseph's initial dreams and his later servant leadership?
4. In what ways can our church community invest in future generations to ensure they learn about 'God's presence that will guide them all through their life'?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*God of Joseph and of all dreamers, you meet us in our highest hopes and our lowest places. Even when we feel forgotten or confined, you call us to serve, to listen, and to love. Give us eyes to see those around us who are hurting and hearts willing to respond. May we trust that in giving, we receive, and in serving, we become more like Christ. Guide our dreams, O Lord, not for our glory but for Your kingdom. Amen.*

### **WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)**

1. When facing a challenge, consciously remind yourself of God's presence and love. How does this change your response?
2. Reach out to someone in your group or church who might be going through a tough time. Offer encouragement and remind them of God's steadfast love.
3. Take the Dream study deeper this Sept with a [3-day reading plan each week of Joseph here](#).