



Discussion Guide

Date: 9/21/2025

Sermon Title: How can I prepare for the future?

Scripture: Genesis 41:46-57

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 God, You are the One who gives vision and wisdom for the days ahead. As we open your Word, open our hearts. Help us to discern how to be faithful stewards of what you have entrusted to us—our time, resources, and gifts. Teach us through Joseph's story to live not only for today, but with your future in mind. May our conversation today bear fruit in our lives and in the world around us. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. What leadership lessons have you been learning from Joseph over the past few weeks?

Digging into the Word:

Read Genesis 41:46-57 aloud as a group or individually. You may want to review the entire Joseph story up to this point.

1. How do you think Joseph's faith and trust in God shaped his decisions during the years of abundance?
2. What lessons can we learn from Joseph's humility in attributing his dream interpretation abilities to God, rather than claiming personal credit?
3. How does the story of Joseph's rise from prisoner to second-in-command of Egypt demonstrate God's ability to work through seemingly hopeless situations?
4. How would you describe The Joseph Principle (saving in times of abundance, preparing for times of scarcity) in your own words?
5. What lessons does this principle offer for your life today—spiritually, financially, or otherwise?
6. Joseph didn't just save for his own future. His stewardship became a blessing for all Egypt and beyond. In what ways can our stewardship today impact not only our lives but the lives of others?
7. Joseph's preparation was not driven by fear, but by wisdom and discernment. How can we avoid hoarding or living in scarcity mindset, while still being wise with our resources?

Wesleyan Insight:

John Wesley once preached, "Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

1. How do you see this triad reflected in Joseph's story?

Wesley emphasized responsible stewardship as part of sanctification and growing in grace.

2. In what ways can stewardship become a spiritual practice in your life? How can or have you experienced God's grace (love) in your practice of stewardship?

Sermon Questions:

1. Joseph interpreters the dream of Pharaoh. In what ways can we cultivate a 'dream interpretation' mindset, seeking to understand God's messages and guidance in our lives?
2. The sermon and text we see Joseph continues to interpret dreams of others. In what ways can we cultivate a 'dream interpretation' mindset, seeking to understand God's messages and guidance in our lives?
3. We are reminded in the sermon that Joseph implemented a plan where everyone sacrificed in the short term for long-term benefits. Can you think of examples where this approach might be beneficial in our personal lives, families, or communities?
4. Pastor Clayton asked in the sermon, "What do we do when times are good? Do we take it for granted, or do we plan and those that come after us?" How would you answer this for yourself or our community?
5. Towards the end of Pastor Clayton's sermon mentions being "good ancestors." What do you think this means in practical terms for us today?

Applying it:

1. What does prepare for the future look like for you right now—financially, relationally, spiritually?
2. How might God be calling you to steward your abundance today for someone else's need tomorrow?
3. Think about the next generation in your family, church, or community. What is one concrete action you can take this month to be a "good ancestor"?

CLOSING PRAYER

God you have shown us through Joseph how wisdom, preparation, and trust in you lead to blessing—not only for ourselves but for others. Help us to live generously, to steward faithfully, and to act with foresight and love. Guide us to be people who not only dream your dreams, but prepare faithfully to live them out. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Reflect on your current spiritual practices. Are you cultivating a strong faith that will sustain you in difficult times? Consider adding a new spiritual discipline to strengthen your relationship with God.
2. Think about the next generation in your family, church, or community. What is one concrete action you can take this month to be a "good ancestor"?
3. Take the Dream study deeper this Sept with a [3-day reading plan each week of Joseph here](#).