



South Sub Church

July 5, 2026

“When God Opens the Door”

Genesis 41 [verses 1-9 (NLT) listed]

Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. ² In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. ³ Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank. ⁴ Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up. ⁵ But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. ⁶ Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. ⁷ And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream. ⁸ The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant. ⁹ Finally, the king’s chief cup-bearer spoke up. “Today I have been reminded of my failure,” he told Pharaoh.

Sermon Summary:

Life doesn’t always make sense in the moment. Betrayal, disappointment, temptation, loss, and waiting can leave us wondering where God is in the middle of it all. Yet the story of Joseph reminds us that even when all seems lost, God is still working behind the scenes - preparing us for purpose and revealing His greater plan. Join us as we walk through one of the most powerful stories in Scripture and discover how God can use every season of life to shape something bigger than we can see.

Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. Have you ever had an unexpected opportunity change your life?
2. What’s a time that preparation helped you avoid a problem later?
3. Who is someone you would describe as wise and dependable?
4. What helps you stay calm under pressure?
5. Have you ever had to wait a long time before seeing something good happen?

Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. How many years passed before Pharaoh had his dreams?
2. What were the two dreams Pharaoh experienced?
3. Who remembered Joseph after Pharaoh shared his dreams?
4. Where was Joseph when Pharaoh sent for him?

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5. What did Joseph say about his own ability to interpret dreams?
6. What did the seven healthy cows and grain represent?
7. What did the seven thin cows and grain represent?
8. What solution did Joseph recommend to Pharaoh?
9. Why did Pharaoh place Joseph in charge of Egypt?
10. What new authority and responsibilities were given to Joseph?

Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. Why was Joseph careful to give God credit instead of taking glory for himself?
2. How did Joseph's years of suffering prepare him for leadership?
3. What does this chapter reveal about God's timing?
4. Why was wisdom and preparation so important for Egypt's survival?
5. How does Joseph's story demonstrate God's sovereignty over difficult circumstances?

Application questions (life response):

1. How can you honor God when you experience success or recognition?
2. What responsibilities or opportunities has God entrusted to you right now?
3. How can seasons of waiting prepare you for future leadership?
4. In what area do you need to trust God's timing more fully?
5. How can you use your gifts and influence to serve others faithfully?