

The Story of Joseph

“When You Feel Forgotten”

South Sub Church | June 28, 2026 | Devotionals from Genesis 40

Day 1

God Has Not Forgotten You

Read: Genesis 40:1–8

Joseph is now sitting in prison for something he did not do. Yet even there, he notices the distress of Pharaoh’s cupbearer and baker. Instead of becoming consumed with his own suffering, Joseph pays attention to the pain of others.

That detail says a lot about Joseph’s heart.

Pain often turns us inward. When life feels heavy, we can become so focused on our own struggles that we stop noticing the people around us.

But Joseph remained compassionate even in prison.

When the two men shared their troubling dreams, Joseph responded with confidence that interpretation belongs to God. Even after betrayal, injustice, and disappointment, Joseph still trusted that God was present and active.

That kind of faith is powerful.

Sometimes difficult seasons make us wonder whether God has forgotten us. We pray, wait, and hope, yet nothing seems to change. Joseph had every reason to lose hope, but he continued trusting God day by day.

Genesis 40 reminds us that God’s silence is not abandonment.

God was still working in Joseph’s prison season, even when Joseph could not yet see the bigger picture.

And often, God uses small moments of faithfulness to position us for future purpose.

You may feel unseen right now, but God has not forgotten you.

Reflection Questions:

- How do I usually respond during difficult seasons?
- Have I become so focused on my struggles that I overlook others?
- Where do I need to trust that God is still working?

Prayer: Lord, help me trust You even when life feels uncertain. Keep my heart compassionate toward others, even during my own struggles. Remind me that You have not forgotten me. Amen.

Day 2

Faithful in Small Moments

Read: Genesis 40:9–15

Joseph listened carefully to the cupbearer’s dream and faithfully shared its meaning. He served someone else even while sitting in prison himself.

What stands out in this chapter is that Joseph continued using the gifts God gave him, even in an unwanted season.

It would have been easy for Joseph to shut down emotionally. He could have decided that his gifts no longer mattered because his circumstances were unfair. But instead, Joseph stayed faithful with what God had entrusted to him.

Many people struggle with this same temptation.

When life becomes disappointing, we often want to withdraw. We assume our current season has little purpose because it does not look the way we expected.

But faithfulness in small moments matters deeply to God.

Joseph could not see how this conversation would eventually connect him to Pharaoh and change his future. At the time, it probably felt like just another ordinary prison interaction.

Yet God was quietly building something bigger.

Sometimes we underestimate the significance of everyday faithfulness—encouraging someone, serving consistently, praying faithfully, or using our gifts in hidden places.

God often prepares future opportunities through present obedience.

Your current season may feel small, but it is not meaningless.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I remaining faithful with what God has given me?
- Have disappointment or frustration caused me to withdraw?
- What small opportunities might God be asking me to steward well today?

Prayer: Father, help me stay faithful in every season. Teach me to use the gifts You have given me even when life feels disappointing or uncertain. Help me trust that You are working through small moments of obedience. Amen.

Day 3

Honest Disappointment Before God

Read: Genesis 40:14–15

After interpreting the cupbearer's dream, Joseph made a simple request: "Remember me."

Those words reveal something deeply human about Joseph. He was tired of being forgotten.

Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned. For years, his life had been marked by disappointment and injustice.

Yet Joseph did not pretend everything was fine.

Sometimes people think faith means hiding emotions or acting spiritually strong all the time. But throughout Scripture, we see faithful people honestly expressing grief, frustration, and longing before God.

Joseph's request reminds us that honesty is not weakness.

God invites us to bring our disappointment to Him instead of burying it.

Many people carry silent discouragement. We wonder why life has turned out differently than expected. We feel overlooked, stuck, or forgotten.

Genesis 40 reminds us that God is not intimidated by our honesty.

We do not need to fake strength in His presence.

At the same time, Joseph's story also teaches patience. Even though Joseph asked to be remembered, the answer would not come immediately.

Waiting can be painful, but delayed answers do not mean God has stopped working.

Reflection Questions:

- Where do I feel disappointed or forgotten?
- Have I been honest with God about my struggles?
- How can I continue trusting God while I wait?

Prayer: God, thank You that I can come honestly before You. You see my disappointments, frustrations, and unanswered prayers. Help me trust You even when the waiting feels long. Amen.

Day 4**The Danger of Forgetting****Read: Genesis 40:20–23**

Everything happened exactly as Joseph said. The cupbearer was restored to Pharaoh's service, and the baker was executed.

But the chapter ends with painful words: "The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him."

Joseph helped someone in their moment of need, yet once the cupbearer's life improved, Joseph was forgotten.

Most people know what that feels like.

We have moments where we feel overlooked, unappreciated, or forgotten by people we cared about or helped. That kind of disappointment can slowly turn into bitterness if we are not careful.

Genesis 40 reminds us that people will sometimes fail us.

Human approval, recognition, and gratitude are never stable foundations for our identity.

If our peace depends entirely on how others treat us, we will constantly feel disappointed.

But while the cupbearer forgot Joseph, God did not.

That truth becomes essential in seasons where nobody seems to notice our faithfulness.

God sees every hidden act of obedience, every quiet sacrifice, every unseen moment of integrity.

Even when people forget, God remembers.

And often, God's timing is very different from ours. Joseph's story was delayed, but it was not abandoned.

Reflection Questions:

- Have I allowed disappointment with people to harden my heart?
- Where am I seeking validation from others?
- How does it change my perspective to know God sees my faithfulness?

Prayer: Lord, help me not build my identity on the approval of others. Remind me that You see every act of faithfulness, even when people overlook or forget me. Teach me to trust Your timing. Amen.

Day 5**Waiting Without Wasting the Season****Read: Genesis 40**

Genesis 40 is a chapter about waiting.

Joseph remains in prison. The cupbearer forgets him. Nothing changes immediately.

Yet beneath the surface, God is quietly arranging future events that Joseph cannot yet see.

Waiting seasons are difficult because they often feel unproductive. We want movement, clarity, and quick answers. But God frequently does deep work in seasons where outward progress seems slow.

Joseph could have become bitter, passive, or hopeless while waiting. Instead, he continued serving faithfully, trusting God, and using the gifts God had given him.

That is what healthy waiting looks like.

Waiting is not doing nothing. It is continuing to trust and obey God even before circumstances change.

Many people spend so much energy trying to escape waiting seasons that they miss what God wants to teach them within those seasons.

Sometimes God develops patience, humility, endurance, compassion, and dependence in ways that only happen through waiting.

Joseph's prison years were not wasted years.

Neither are yours.

God often prepares us privately before He uses us publicly.

The season you want to rush through may actually be preparing you for something greater later.

Reflection Questions:

- How do I usually respond to waiting seasons?
- What might God be teaching me right now?

Am I trusting God even when progress feels slow?

Prayer: Father, help me trust You in seasons of waiting. Teach me not to waste this season through bitterness or discouragement. Grow my faith and shape my character while I wait on You. Amen.