

THE CINDERELLA MAN

Genesis 41-42
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INTRO:

The story behind “The Cinderella Man”

A. JOSEPH’S TRIALS

Joseph lost his...

1. **Family** (Gen. 37:34-36)
2. **Freedom** (Gen. 39:40)
3. **Future** (Gen. 40:14-15, 23)

B. JOSEPH’S TENACITY

Joseph took care of his...

1. **Head** (Gen. 39:20-23; 40:23)
2. **Heart** (Gen. 40:8,14,23; 41:16,38)
3. **Hands** (Gen. 39:22; 40:2-4,7, 41:33-36)

C. JOSEPH’S TRIUMPH

1. God gave Joseph **favor** (Gen. 39:4-5, 22-23; 41:41-45)
2. God made him **forget** all his troubles (Gen. 41:51)
3. God made him **fruitful** in the land of suffering (Gen. 41:52)

CONCLUSION:

We can flourish in tough times and remind ourselves to change our **perspective**, cultivate our **character** and continue our **service** to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker. Have you ever accidentally locked yourself in a bathroom or locked your kid in a car? Have you ever locked yourself out of the house? What kinds of situations make you feel stuck, trapped, forgotten, or alone – physically or emotionally?
2. Read Genesis 39:16-23. Injustice is a bitter pill to swallow. Innocent, Joseph sat out his twenties in a dark dungeon. Yet God had a purpose through it all. Joseph eventually emerged from prison to become the prime minister. *How did God grow your character at times in your life when you felt hidden or trapped, or when you were in a long season of waiting? Did you recognize it as growth at the time? Did you know how the story would end? If you're still in the space of waiting or obscurity, what is your next step of faith?*
3. Read Genesis 40:1-7. The passage narrates that God used Joseph's spiritual gift of dream interpretation right where he found himself, languishing in prison. A gentle, mature, grown-up Joseph in prison is very different from arrogant teenage Joseph who bragged about his dreams and flaunted his fancy coat. *How has God called you to exercise your gifts even in times of severe suffering or when it felt as if He had forgotten you? How has Joseph's exercising his gifts to interpret dreams to the people who caused him injustice teach us about serving and loving our enemies? To what extent are you willing to do this?*
4. Read Genesis 41:15-16. Joseph displays courage and humility as God powerfully uses his gift of dream interpretation. *Which friends, family members, church leaders, authors, or Christian influencers have had the greatest impact on your walk with Jesus? What do courage and humility look like in their lives?*
5. Read Genesis 41:41-44. *Where do you see yourself today on the metaphorical sliding scale of being in prison to prime minister? What character of Joseph you already have and what areas do you still need to work on?*
6. Read Genesis 41:50-52. *How has following Christ made you forget all the trouble, trauma, and painful memories of your past? How has following Christ also made you fruitful in the 'land' of suffering?*
7. Close the Life Group meeting by praying for those who are in the 'pit' that they can flourish with a right perspective, cultivate their character and serve those who are not just in need, but those who don't even deserve it.