



Live Like No One Else: Part 3

Small Group Questions: The Joseph Principal

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Read

Genesis 41 and 45:4–7; Matthew 6:33; Malachi 3:8–12; Proverbs 6:6–8 and Deuteronomy 30:19

Reflect

In Genesis 41, Joseph interprets Pharaoh of Egypt's dream of seven healthy cows and heads of grain followed by seven scrawny cows and thin heads of grain. The dream is a warning of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. It is a warning to prepare for what's coming. How prepared are you for lean times?

Pastor Josh Surratt highlights three principles we can learn from Joseph's life:

1. Always put God first.
 - a. What or who are you putting first right now?
 - i. Review the past week—how you planned and spent your money. Does it reflect God's place in your life?
 - b. Do you really trust God with your livelihood and finances?
 - i. If you're in a challenging situation, what do you think it would take to be free of it?
 1. Have you asked God's opinion on what it would take?
 - c. What is your next step to really put God first?
2. Live like no one else during the good days.
 - a. Could the way you handle and allocate your finances be distinguished from that of nonbelievers around you?
 - b. What actions are you taking to save and prepare for the following?
 - i. emergencies
 - ii. special purchases
 - iii. future (retirement, education, and to help others?)
 - c. Do you have a budget on paper or on the computer? If so, how often do you use it?
 - i. What next-step improvement could you make?
3. Make a difference during the hard days.
 - a. After years of difficulty, Joseph found himself in a position of power—a position he probably could not have dreamed of.
 - i. Joseph realized all the hard years were part of God's plan. How hard would that be to accept in your own life?
 - ii. Are you trusting God to do something good with your situation?
 - iii. In addition to Joseph, how have you seen God work through people who trusted him?
 - iv. Joseph showed forgiveness and generosity to his brothers who sold him into slavery.
 1. Consider any difficult relationships in your own life. How might you emulate Joseph?
 - b. If an opportunity arose to go on a mission trip or someone needed help, do you have the financial freedom to do it?
 - i. How are you working to create margin for such things?
 - c. Have you made a habit of generosity?
 - i. Consider writing down some generosity goals.
 - d. What changes do you need to make right now?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?