thrive
A HOPE WOMEN'S GATHERING

Persevering Faith: Lessons from the Life of Joseph

Lesson 5: Forgotten
Teacher: Erin Wells
October 16, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

READING: Genesis 40:5-15, 20-23 (NIV)

5 each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in
prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 6 When Joseph came to
them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in
custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" 8 "We both had dreams," they
answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

9 So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, 10
and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into
grapes. 11 Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put
the cup in his hand."

12 "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. 13 Within three days
Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand,
just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. 14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and
show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 I was forcibly carried off from
the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

20 Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads
of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: 21 He restored the chief cupbearer
to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand— 22 but he impaled the chief baker,
just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. 23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember
Joseph; he forgot him.

TABLE STUDY:

1. Who does Joseph credit for the interpretation of dreams?

2. What does Joseph ask of the cupbearer after he interprets his dream? How does the cupbearer repay Joseph?

3. What does Joseph mention about the circumstances that led him to being imprisoned? What does he leave out?

TEACHING NOTES:

TABLE DISCUSSION:

1. When have you felt forgotten or overlooked? Did you feel overlooked by people, or were you wondering where God was in your circumstances? What helped you through that season?

2. Feeling forgotten is a legitimate feeling, however how can we know for sure that we are not forgotten? Read these verses together at your table:
   Isaiah 49:15-16, Deuteronomy 31:8, Psalm 139:17-18, Luke 12:6-7, Hebrews 13:5

3. Joseph continued serving and using his gifts even in prison. What might faithfulness look like in a season where you feel stuck, unseen, discouraged, or forgotten? Is there something God might be inviting you to do right where you are?

4. Read Hebrews 12:15 and Psalm 62:8. How do we keep disappointment from turning into bitterness? When we feel forgotten, what are some healthy ways to process that hurt with God?

UNISON READING: Genesis 50:20

You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it.