

When Life Disappoints You

Word

Scripture Reference

Genesis 40:1-23

Discussion Questions

1. Share a disappointment in life that you had experienced and had a hard time dealing with it.
2. Life turns can be difficult and disappointing. These unpleasant realities are often circumstances over which we have no control and where we are not able to remove ourselves, causing us to be helpless and hopeless. How do you respond and live out life amidst disappointments? Where do you anchor your hope when your life takes those hard turns? Have you ever wondered why you would go through some difficulties in life even if you didn't do anything to deserve them?
3. Read Genesis 40:1-23. Joseph started out as the favorite son of his father that made him hated by his brothers who eventually sold him as a slave. However, he later found himself rise to a position next to his master. But then, he ended up in prison for keeping his integrity. How ironic and how disappointing can it be when righteousness is not recognized! Joseph stood out even as a prisoner, in fact, he was put in charge of the prisoners, which made the life of the prison guard pretty easy. But it didn't discount the fact that he was still inside prison. Discuss how you would feel if you find yourself in such a situation that is so unfair. How would you keep yourself from despair and negativity in times of trouble that you don't deserve?
4. Philosopher Plutarch once said that "The measure of a man is the way he bears up under misfortune." Let's see and learn how Joseph handled his misfortune. Discuss about the two new prisoners who were put under Joseph's responsibility (v.1-4). What did they have that triggered Joseph to minister to them (v.5-8)?
5. Joseph could have just ignored their sad look, but he showed genuine concern, while he himself was in a dilemma of his own. He also took the

opportunity to introduce and point them to God. His response revealed and displayed what was evident in his heart – his dependence on God. And rather than focusing on his difficulty, he made the most out of his difficult circumstance. Sometimes, your life's disappointments can be your divine appointments. Do you see God's hand when your circumstances are not fair and things don't go the way you want them to happen? How does your difficult situation help you to understand what others go through? Share how God has honed you and use you in the lives of other people in the midst of your own personal struggles.

6. Read the butler and baker's dreams as they told them to Joseph (v.9-19). What were the interpretations of their dreams? After ministering to the butler, what request did Joseph ask him to do for him (v.14-15)? When you have helped someone in need, do you expect that person to help you out of your own trouble if you know that he is capable of helping you?
7. Joseph's predictions were fulfilled and they took place exactly as Joseph said it. Unfortunately, the butler forgot all about him for two long years. Share when you have experienced being in dire need, but no one, even those whom you have helped in the past, "remembered" to support you. How does God use disappointments in directing your paths to His greater plans? How is this so true in Joseph's life?

Walk

This story began in disappointment, wherein Joseph did the right things and still he had to suffer for righteousness sake. He was wrongly accused, got imprisoned, and (in this chapter) ended with him being forgotten—a disappointing situation indeed. Joseph couldn't see it then, but God was indeed lining up everything the way He knows best. And it is the plans and purposes of God that will come to pass! How did Joseph's imprisonment prepared him as an Egypt's governor? Think about your own life, how do life's disappointments could be your divine appointments? How could you use your own struggles to be of help to others who may be going through similar situation?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you that You allow us to go through disappointments in life for a purpose. Thank You that You are sovereign who always works out Your plans and promises based on Your ways and time, not on my hopes or expectations. I acknowledge that this kind of hope is found only in my consistent and intimate relationship with you. Help me in my walk with you and enable me to endure instead of trying to escape being in the midst of life's disappointment in order to learn and be more matured in my walk with You. Thank you that your grace is always sufficient. In Jesus' name. Amen.