**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ May 22, 2022**

**Joseph: Imprisoned But Not Forgotten**

Genesis 41:1-16

**Key Truth**: God never wastes our pain. He can use it to prepare us for a greater purpose.

**Joseph Is Remembered**:

1. Two full years had passed but God had not forgotten Joseph.

2. Joseph was prepared for the opportunity that led to his

 destiny.

**Joseph Rises To Power**:

1. Joseph continued to give God the credit for his success.

2. Joseph didn’t compromise his faith to gain his freedom or

 promotion.

3. Joseph was known more for his character than his

 competency.

**Joseph Experience Healing**:

1. Joseph had been healed from the bitterness from his past.

2. Joseph didn’t let his past hurts affect his future relationships.

**What We Learn:**

1. God’s timing is the best.

2. Through our patient waiting God is transforming us into who

 we need to be.

3. Don’t let power go to your head instead let it in remain in

 your hands to serve others.

4. God can use suffering and adversity to prepare us for

 extraordinary service to Him.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Trust God’s timing and seek spiritual growth while you wait. Let go of the past so you can take hold of your God given future.

**Connection Group Discussion Questions**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Describe a time when God worked in your life through difficult circumstances. What was that experience like at the time? How did you respond to what God was doing? How did God show Himself faithful to you?

Look back at Genesis 41:16 What does Joseph’s response reveal about his relationship with God? What response might you expect from someone in prison?

Read 1 Peter 5:6-7: What are some practical ways we wait upon the Lord? Why is it so hard for us to practice patience, especially when it comes to God’s plans and His timing? How can we grow in this area?

Read Genesis 41:50-52: What is the meaning behind the names for both of Joseph’s sons? What does Joseph acknowledge about God with both of these names?

Because of what he had to endure, Joseph could have grown bitter and selfish over time, but instead his life is a picture to us of a humble servant who recognized his dependency on God and God’s power to work through him. Read Romans 5:1-5. What two things did Paul say we can rejoice in because of God’s grace? Which of Paul’s stated reasons for rejoicing is a little tougher for you to swallow? Why?

Read Genesis 41:38: How did Pharaoh describe Joseph in verse 38? Do the people in your life—family, coworkers, neighbors—see you as a person in whom the Spirit of God lives? What can you do differently this week to make the Spirit’s presence more evident to those around you?