

# I Feel All Alone

## Genesis 40:6-23

<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Joseph Left in Prison</b>
<b>Story Opening</b>	I wonder why God gives us the ability to dream. Is there a dream that you keep having while you are asleep? What is a dream you have that you hope will come true some day?
<b>Background</b>	<p>If you recall from last week, Joseph was sent to prison for something he didn't do. But while he was in prison, "the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (39:21). The prison keeper put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners and trusted him completely.</p> <p>Sometime after this, Pharaoh (the ruler of Egypt) became angry with his cupbearer and baker and put them both in prison - the same prison where Joseph was confined. One morning when Joseph saw them, they were very sad. When Joseph asked them what was wrong, they both said they had dreams the night before which caused them to be afraid. Remember how Joseph had dreams when he was in his father's house? Let's see what Joseph did with these dreams.</p>
<b>Telling the Story</b>	Read the passage from Genesis 40 below.
<b>Retelling the Story</b>	Toss a ball back and forth among family members. Whoever the ball is thrown to has to tell the next part of the story until the whole story is retold.
<b>Discovery &amp; Response Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What stood out to you from today's story? What did you like about it? What did you find frustrating or unfair?</li><li>• Do you know anyone whose life is like Joseph's, in which one bad thing seems to happen after another?</li><li>• How do you think Joseph was feeling at the end of our Bible story?</li><li>• Can you think of a time when you have felt like this?</li></ul> <p>Read Psalm 27:14 together. It says, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (ESV)</p> <p>Read Psalm 37:7. "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes." (NIV)</p>

	<p>Joseph probably felt very disappointed when the cupbearer forgot about him. Joseph may even have felt forgotten by the Lord during this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids ask your parents: Can you think of a time when you had to wait for the Lord to answer your prayers or deliver you from a hard situation? How did you get through that?</li> <li>• This COVID virus has made life difficult for a long time. Has it been difficult for you to wait patiently during this time? Why or why not? Do you wish God would hurry and end it?</li> <li>• What can we learn from times of waiting? (God often uses times of waiting in our lives to humble us, teach us patience, teach us to trust Him, and prepare us for what is next.)</li> <li>• Have you ever felt like God had forgotten you? What did you do to overcome that feeling?</li> </ul>
<b>Response Station</b>	<p>Give children a chance to respond by playing a song in the background and letting them write up their responses on index cards or in a journal. Have them think about questions such as: Why does God make us wait for things sometimes? How does God use times of waiting for our good? What am I waiting for right now that I need to trust God with?</p>
<b>Coloring Page</b>	<p>See attached coloring page for an additional activity to do with your child.</p>

## **Story: Genesis 40:6-23 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. <sup>7</sup>So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" <sup>8</sup>They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

<sup>9</sup>So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, <sup>10</sup>and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. <sup>11</sup>Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." <sup>12</sup>Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. <sup>13</sup>In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. <sup>14</sup>Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. <sup>15</sup>For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

<sup>16</sup>When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, <sup>17</sup>and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head." <sup>18</sup>And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. <sup>19</sup>In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

<sup>20</sup>On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. <sup>21</sup>He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. <sup>22</sup>But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. <sup>23</sup>Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.