

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 40**

This week we pick up where we left off on Friday – Joseph is in prison. And while God is blessing him in his unfortunate circumstance, he is still in prison. Who joins Joseph in prison and why (vss. 1-4)? What happens next (vss. 5-8)? What was the chief cup-bearer's dream and what does it mean (vss. 9-15)? What was the chief baker's dream and what did it mean (vss. 16-19)? What happens next (vss. 20-23)? Notice how many days had passed. Did Joseph's interpretations come true? What happened to the cup-bearer? What happened to the chief baker? What happened to Joseph (vs. 23)? What does this reveal to you about humanity? Where do you find yourself in this text? Are you like the chief baker or cup-bearer and have offended someone in authority? Are you Joseph, who though God gives him the answer ends up no better off? Do you fail to give credit where credit is due, either to God or to others? How do you feel when you have done as God has asked and yet it seems that nothing happened? Do you think Joseph was disappointed or maybe even frustrated? Spend some time today to consider how you fit into this text. Ask God to reveal to you where He is and how He works in your life.

### **Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 41:1-36**

As we begin chapter 41 today, how much time has transpired since yesterday's reading (vs. 1)? What was Pharaoh's first dream (vss. 2-4)? What was Pharaoh's second dream (vss. 5-7)? What was Pharaoh's reaction to the dreams (vs. 8)? The cup-bearer returns to the story and what does he remember and share with Pharaoh (vss. 9-13)? What is Pharaoh's response (vss. 10-15)? Whom does Joseph give the credit to for dream interpretation (vs. 16)? Verses 17-24 are the retelling of the dreams to Joseph. What is Joseph's interpretation (vss. 25-32)? What does this tell you about God? Do you think God has a plan and it is time to work it? Joseph is bold and goes on with his advice for Pharaoh. What is this advice (vss. 33-36)? This is pretty outrageous of Joseph, who is just a slave and a prisoner in jail. When you know that you know, do you stay silent or do you risk speaking truth into the situation? What does this reveal about God and His timing? What does this reveal about us? Do all dreams have to mean something? How do we tell the difference? Consider the dreams of the past two days. They were rather specific about one subject. So, consider that when you have dreams. Not all dreams are from God.

### **Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 41:37-57**

Picking up where we left off yesterday, what is Pharaoh's response to this boldness of Joseph (vss. 37-40)? What does being Pharaoh's right-hand man look like (vss. 41-46)? Does Joseph abuse this authority or get right down to work (vss. 46-49)? What blessed events take place (vss. 50-52)? What do the names mean? Notice that even though Joseph's father-in-law is a priest to a false god, Joseph has not forgotten God Almighty, the God of his father Jacob. Now read verses 53-47. How did Joseph's plan of taking 5% of the fat during the good years and putting it away help when the famine hit? What does this teach us about handling our own finances and resources? Do we need dreams to tell us things are going to get bad or are we able to know that living fat doesn't last forever? Joseph had a plan and his plan saved many lives. God blessed others through Joseph. What is your plan should our economy suffer a severe blow? How might God bless you to be a blessing to others this way? What does this reveal about God? What does this reveal about us? What might you need to start doing to prepare to survive in an economic downfall? Pray and ask God to give you wisdom and guidance so that you too may be a blessing to others because of your preparations.

### **Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 42:1-26**

Today we start back with Jacob and the 11 brothers. As we can see in verses 1-2, the famine has reached their region of the world as well. What does Jacob tell his sons to do (vss. 1-5)? Who is missing and why (vs. 4)? When they arrive in Egypt, where do they go and what happens (vs. 6)? Let's pause here for a moment and go back and read Genesis 37:5-11. How does verse 6 fulfill the Genesis 37 text? Returning to today's readings, how did the reunion go between these brothers (vss. 7-14)? Does Joseph know who they are (vs. 8)? Yet what does he accuse his brothers of being (vss. 9 and 14)? What proposition does Joseph offer his brothers (vs. 16)? How long do they stay there (vs. 17)? How do the three days tie into Jesus? What does Joseph declare himself to be to his brothers (vs. 18)? Because of this, what is the new plan (vss. 19-20)? What do the brothers say (vss. 21-22)? What is Joseph's reaction to the brother's discussion (vss. 23-24)? What does Joseph decide to do? Now read verses 25-26. What does Joseph do? Why do you think Joseph just doesn't come clean with his brothers? Consider who is missing when you answer that question. Where is God revealed in this text? What ties and references do you see regarding Jesus? Do you remember that Jesus' brothers rejected him at first as well, but that Jesus died to save them as well as all of us? What does this say about us humans and our plans? Spend time today pondering these questions. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and insight into the text and into your own life.

### **Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – Genesis 42:27-38**

We finish this week with the brothers returning to Jacob. On the way home, what do one of the brothers discover (vss. 27-28)? When they finally arrive home, what are the major points that they share with Jacob (vss. 29-34)? What happens when they unpack (vss. 35-36)? What does Jacob declare and why? How does Reuben try to comfort his father (vs. 37)? But Jacob is stubborn and holding fast to what position regarding Benjamin (vs. 38)? Why does he take this stance? When have you hold onto something so tightly? Could be your own children, your spouse, parent or even an object like your home or a job. When we hang on that tight, what does it reflect about our faith? If you were in Jacob's shoes, what would be your reaction? Why do you think Jacob thinks Benjamin is all he has left? How might this tie back to his love for Rachel? What does this reveal to us about God? What do you learn about yourself in this text? Spend some time in prayer today, thanking God for being faithful to you even when you were holding on tight to the one thing that would bring you a blessing if you let go!

### **Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Genesis 43:1-5.**