

**Genesis 40:14–15; 41:9–16;
32–36, 38–41, 53–54**

1 Peter 5:6–7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6–7

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

What can you do when it hurts and you can't see a clear path ahead of you? Sometimes our teens live in that world, even if momentarily. They need encouragement that there is a brighter day with better circumstances. But sometimes our words aren't enough. Our teens need to know that God cares and that, somehow, He's got a plan in mind.

Read Genesis 40:14-15. Joseph was in a situation that, at the moment, seemed utterly hopeless. He had done nothing wrong to deserve imprisonment.

Why do we suffer injustice when we know in our hearts we haven't done anything to deserve what we're going through? The answer is—God only knows. This is a truthful answer and we have to learn that it is enough. Sometimes, as in the case of Joseph, there is no answer

that would ever meet our standards at the time we're going through the pain. However, Joseph didn't stay in prison—he didn't remain in his pain. God had another purpose and it included service to a region and a nation.

What Joseph did not know, and never was to know, was that his painful experiences would have implications lasting for centuries. God had a plan to later display His glory to the world through Israel and their painful experiences in Egypt. He also had a plan for salvation and deliverance. All of this stemmed from one young man's willingness to stick it out and see God's plan through.

Today, we can look at our painful circumstances and begin to wonder what God has in mind. Most certainly, in the end, it will be something beyond our wildest imagination.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family shares stories about positive outcomes to painful circumstances. These may be shared experiences or individual stories. Then, when the family finishes sharing, family members discuss: **What good did God bring out of the situation?**

Explore . . .

First, family members share in reading the focal passages from Genesis 40. Then, the family discusses: **What, if any, were the reasons Joseph might have had for becoming bitter in his circumstances? What kept Joseph from becoming bitter? Ultimately, how did God plan to use Joseph's life?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **What are some precautions we can take and be proactive against becoming bitter? What are some questions we might ask God in the middle of our painful experiences besides "why" questions?**

Pray that your family will learn how to trust God for the outcome of difficult circumstances, bearing in mind that He will use your experiences, guarding you from bitterness.