



Throughout our lives, circumstances and people can hurt or disadvantage us. We can feel that we are the victims in our difficult situations. But if we look at these struggles from the right vantage point, they can become powerful tools in God's hands to shape us into overcomers. In this series, we're going to gain insight into how we can move from being victims to overcomers as we look at how God's plan unfolds in the life of Joseph.

**Week Four:** Waiting Well

**Text:** Genesis 40-41

Seasons of waiting are so difficult. We are so used to having whatever we want delivered instantly. When we find ourselves for a time in an undesirable situation and hoping our circumstances will change, we suffer anxiety, irritation, and real emotional pain. Our natural tendency may be to distract and entertain ourselves, passively passing the time while we wait. In the life of Joseph we see the example of a man who waited in action and expectation, and with a gospel perspective. While in prison, he did not "languish" but intentionally pursued relationships with people and God, took on responsibilities with energy and excellence. He expected God to be at work behind the scenes in his life and the lives of others. And he was able to see his story as part of God's plan to rescue others.

**Discussion Questions:** These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

### **What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?**

- Share with your group an example that illustrates how you struggle to wait well.
- Share an instance where you realize the failure to wait well led you to make a poor decision. What were the results?
- Why do you think we tend to be passive while we wait instead of active?
- Do you tend to wait in expectation that God is working? Why or why not?
- Is it easy or hard for you to believe that God is working as you wait?

### **What are you going to do about it?**

- Is there an area of your life where you could take action as you wait?
- Can you think of a time where God worked while you waited? What work did He do?

### **How can others in this group help you or pray for you?**

- Read John 14:1-3. Do you see that the palace you are ultimately waiting for is the one Jesus is preparing for you? How does the truth of this 'Good News' encourage you in your waiting now?

### **Possible Applications:**

During your current time of waiting (maybe for the COVID pandemic to end...) take action:

- Learn to spend time daily with God.
- Engage with a relational community of Christ followers.
- Grow together spiritually with your spouse or other members of your household.
- Invest yourself in the next generation.
- Find a new way to **BLESS** people around you:
  - B**egin to pray for them
  - L**isten to them with care
  - E**at together (or engage with them personally in some way)
  - S**erve with love (or ask for their help)
  - S**hare your story and God's story with them