

Genesis 41 — PROVIDENCE

Warm-Up Question:

Tell the story of a particular situation or season in your life where you felt certain about God's providence at work.

READ: Genesis 41

I. PROVIDENCE: TRUST

- ▶ Read VS. 15-16, 32, and 51 and discuss how Joseph saw clearly how God's hand was leading him and his life.
- ▶ What is Joseph communicating to Pharaoh (who thinks he is a god) when he tells him "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."
- ▶ It is often most difficult to trust God's providence when life is difficult. Share a story when you found this to be true for you, and how God lead you through that time.

II. PROVIDENCE: PATTERN

- ▶ How was Joseph's life like a "J," where God took him down before bringing him back up again? How did Jesus' life have that same pattern?
- ▶ Share where you feel you are in that pattern now. Top of the "J" where all is well? Headed downward or at the bottom? Curving back upward?

III. PROVIDENCE: MISSION

- ▶ How did God preserve Joseph in order to give him a mission or purpose?
- ▶ Share one thing in our nation/culture/county that is broken and breaks your heart most?
- ▶ How might God use you or your Life Group (or is using you) to live on mission here in Citrus County? (Think about your work, your service, etc)

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

"I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that the chaff from the hand of the winnow is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of . . . leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche."

—Charles Spurgeon

God's providence is His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory and the good of His people.

— Jerry Bridges

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