

WEEK FOUR

Mike Howerton - Lead Pastor

Your Prison Can Be Your _____

*But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed. **Genesis 39:21-23 NLT***

While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them. And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams."

Genesis 40:5-8 NLT

Your Prison Can Produce Your _____

*So the chief cup-bearer told Joseph his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a grapevine in front of me. The vine had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon it produced clusters of ripe grapes. I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took a cluster of grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand." "This is what the dream means," Joseph said. "The three branches represent three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it." **Genesis 40:9-15 NLT***

*Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he prepared a banquet for all his officials and staff. He summoned his chief cup-bearer and chief baker to join the other officials. He then restored the chief cup-bearer to his former position, so he could again hand Pharaoh his cup. But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream. Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought. **Genesis 40:20-23 NLT***

When two full years had passed... **Genesis 41:1a NIV**

...with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

2 Peter 3:8 NIV

*We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. **2 Corinthians 4:16,17 NIV***

Let's live in HOPE:

H _____

O _____

P _____

E _____

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS //

1. What part of the message resonated most with you?
2. Read: Genesis 39:21-23 & 40:5-23 – what stood out most to you – why?
3. What's been a "prison" circumstance in your life? How did you respond to it?
4. Did it prepare you for things later in life? How so?
5. How has "God's timing" required patience in your life?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 – what word, phrase stood out most to you – why?