

## January 15 — Please Remember Me

### READ

Genesis 40:1-23

Genesis 35:8-9

Genesis 41:1-57

Genesis 40:14, 23, *“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. ... Pharaoh’s cupbearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.”*

Genesis 41:41, *“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.’”*

### THINK

Do you ever feel overlooked or forgotten? Maybe you wonder why your talents and abilities go unnoticed by others. Not so with God! He is the One who gifted you uniquely to fulfill His plans and purposes. Sometimes, though, our timing doesn’t align with God’s. Therefore, it’s important to remember that His delays are NOT His denials!

So it was with Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his own brothers, he was falsely accused of a crime and thrown in prison. Gifted by God to interpret dreams, he helped two fellow inmates understand what they’d dreamt. When one was released, he asked, “Please remember me.” Yet two years passed, and Joseph was still in the slammer! Finally, his former inmate remembered him and summoned him to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams. In God’s timing, he so impressed Pharaoh that he was put second in charge of all of Egypt!

As your Creator, God *can* and *will* use you to do amazing things. So, be patient because it’ll happen at just the right time!

### PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for gifting me in unique ways. Help me remain patient and remember that Your delays are NOT denials. Your timing is always perfect. Amen.

## January 16 — Stay Focused

### READ

Genesis 42:1-45:15

Genesis 42:6-7, *“Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So, when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. ‘Where do you come from?’ he asked.”*

### THINK

A joyous reunion is not exactly what Joseph had in mind when seeing his brothers again. After all, they had thrown him in a pit, sold him to Egyptian traders, and told his father he was dead. Now, here they were, bowing before him just as his dreams foretold. It would seem like the perfect set up to exact revenge. But time had revealed a plan beyond his brother’s horrendous actions. Joseph realized that God had positioned him to save his family and many others.

It’s easy to focus on the transgressions against us. However, such a narrow focus is cloudy and can cause us to miss what God wants to do through us. At times, the vision for His purpose and plans for our lives may seem blurry and feel as if God is leaving us in the dark. But be encouraged! God is in control. Just hold on and fix your eyes on Him. In due time, you’ll see with 20/20 vision as God makes His plan clear.

### PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for reminding me that You are in control. It’s very easy to focus on my current circumstances and lose sight of Your greater plans. Help me keep my eyes fixed on You and trust that You are doing something far greater than I can see. In Jesus ’name, Amen.

## January 17 — Feast or Famine?

### READ

Genesis 45:16-47:27

Genesis 47:23-24, *“Joseph said to the people, ‘...I will provide you with seed so you can plant it in the fields. Then when you harvest it, one-fifth of your crop will belong to Pharaoh. You may keep the remaining four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for you, your households, and your little ones.’”*

### THINK

There’s a reason for the saying, “When it rains, it pours.” In life, doesn’t it often like feast or famine? Some years produce great windfalls, and we delight in God’s blessings. Other years (Hmph... 2020, for example) life’s full of storms, unfortunate situations, and turmoil. And it’s in those years that good leadership is vital to help get us through.

Joseph excelled, when all of Egypt suffered from a horrific famine. People, desperate for food, came to him for help. And, as we see in today’s reading, he showed great wisdom — that came from knowing God — and orchestrated a plan to keep them from dying of starvation.

Like Joseph, God wants you to lead with wisdom. He wants you to press into Him for guidance. His Word promises that He gives wisdom to all who seek it without judgment. So, next time you shrug and think, “When it rains, it pours,” approach His throne of grace and seek the guidance that only He can provide. You’ll never be left to thirst or hunger when living out God’s amazing plan.

### PRAY

Dear Lord, Thank You for Your provision and promise. Amid life’s storms, I choose to seek the wisdom that only comes through knowing You. Amen.

## January 18 — What You Intended for Harm...

### READ

Genesis 47:28-50:26

Genesis 50:15, 19-20, *“But now their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. Now Joseph will ... pay us back for all the wrong we did to him.’ ... But Joseph replied, ‘Don’t be afraid of me ... You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.’”*

### THINK

When bad things happen, when we’ve been horribly betrayed or hurt by others, it’s easy to dwell on the negative. But Romans 8:28 assures us that God works through all things for our good and His glory. Not some things, not at certain times, but through ALL THINGS!

Joseph was especially aware of this! His own brothers, jealous of their father’s apparent favoritism, threw Joseph in a pit and sold him into slavery. Over time, and after spending years in prison for a crime he didn’t commit, he rose to power in Egypt. God reunited his family there. But after the death of their father, his brothers thought he’d surely enact revenge. But Joseph made an eloquent statement that would be remembered throughout the annals of time: “What you intended to harm me, God meant for good!”

Let that thought resonate in your heart. Because no matter your circumstances, no matter the severity of your betrayal, remember that God is working through it for a far greater purpose and find it within you to rejoice!

### PRAY

God, I know that no matter how hurt or betrayed I feel, that You will work through it for my good and Your glory. Thank You! Amen.

## January 19 — Hope in the Hopeless

### READ

Job 1:1-4:21

Job 1:22, *"In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God."*

### THINK

Have you ever taken a tough exam that you thought you'd fail? Imagine a test in which you lost your wealth, family, and health. That's the life of Job!

In today's reading, we see Job — a great man of God, blameless and full integrity — seemingly living the perfect life. Little did he know, he was about to enter the darkest moment of his life — and he was going to become a shining example of faith. In a matter of days, he lost all of his children, health, and wealth. All he had left was a wife who told him he should curse God and die. And what did he do? He praised God! In the midst of his grief, he chose to continue to trust in God and follow Him.

Maybe you're coming out of a trial, are in the middle of a trial, or entering a trial. Instead of turning your back on God when the pressure escalates, choose to trust that He can work everything (even trials) for His good. God was always in control, even amid Job's hardship, and He had a master plan — even though Job couldn't see it at the time.

Remember, even when things seem hopeless, with Christ, there's always hope!

### PRAY

Dear God, Thank You that even amid my hardships, that You are always in control. Help me trust that You have a plan for my life even when all seems lost. You are my hope when things seem hopeless. Amen.

## January 20 — Cry Out to God

### READ

Job 5:1-7:21

Job 6:1-3, *“Then Job replied: ‘If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas — no wonder my words have been impetuous.’”*

### THINK

At times, you might be tempted to think you have to have it all together BEFORE approaching God in prayer or worship. He is King of kings, and to pray with an attitude of respect and honor is definitely fitting. But He is also our Heavenly Father and desires for us, His children, to cry out to Him when we are in need.

Picture a young boy outside with his father. If he finds himself in trouble or gets frustrated, there is no hesitancy — he impulsively calls out! He doesn’t weigh his words carefully and evaluate what he’ll say before he speaks. He trusts his father. And, depending on the situation, his father responds immediately, or he watches him struggle for a moment, knowing there is a lesson to be learned.

Whatever you are going through, call out to God — even if your words come out in a nonsensical jumble. He loves you, hears you, and will walk with you through whatever you’re facing.

### PRAY

My Heavenly Father, I cry out to You today. I don’t understand \_\_\_\_\_, but I choose to trust in You. You are my Rock and my Salvation — nothing is impossible for You! Amen.

## January 21 — Don't Get Swept Away

### READ

Job 8:1-11:20

Job 10:17, *"Your forces come against me wave upon wave."*

### THINK

When you're drowning in hardships, a heavy workload, or mounting debt, it seems impossible to get a foothold and rise above the waters. Sometimes life gets so complicated it's overwhelming. We look up and wonder, "Why me?"

Job was not only facing great tragedy and loss, but his friends scornfully judged him, adding insult to injury. It's one of Satan's favorite ploys. He loves to attack us from all sides. He delights in inflicting shame, betrayal, guilt, and pain through life's circumstances and other people — even our so-called "friends." And, if we let him, he will destroy us.

But despite the crashing waves of despair, God has provided a way. In a name: Jesus. He's the only One who can rescue us from death and destruction. When the storm sweeps away everything we are clinging to, the Rock of Ages still remains. He sees us through, and we WILL overcome.

### PRAY

Lord, Help me trust You through the storms of life. It's not about my comfort but my living testimony. You are God and have a greater purpose. Thank You for being my God and my Rock. Amen.