

God of the Underdogs

Joseph

1. Learn everything you can in the prison

Genesis 39:20–21 Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. (NIV)

Genesis 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. (NIV)

Proverbs 4:7 Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. (NLT)

Proverbs 16:16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, and good judgment than silver! (NLT)

Proverbs 8:10–11 Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. ¹¹ For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it. (NLT)

2. Practice your gift in the prison

Genesis 39:22–23 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. ²³ The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. (NIV)

Genesis 40:8 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.” (NLT)

3. Wait for God to promote you

Genesis 40:14–15 “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. ¹⁵ 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.” (NLT)

Genesis 40:23 Pharaoh’s chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought. (NLT)

Genesis 41:1–2 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. ² In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. (NLT)

Genesis 41:8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant. (NLT)

Genesis 41:9 Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. (NLT)

Genesis 41:15–16 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶ "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease." (NLT)

Genesis 41:38–40 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." (NLT)