

## Conversation Starters

- Looking back on your past, can you think of a great challenge you overcame?
- How did you do it?

## Discuss

**Living between the now and not yet (the “messy middle”) is difficult. It’s difficult to navigate and rise up from a long and challenging season when the end is in sight but still a ways off. Joseph showed us the best way to set yourself apart during the messy middle is with the right attitude.**

*“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...”Pharaoh’s chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought. ([Genesis 40:14-15. 23. NLT](#))*

- How would you react if you were in Joseph’s shoes?
- What kind of attitude do you have right now in your messy middle?
- Do you let circumstances dictate your attitude, instead of choosing it?

**Joseph’s attitude gave him powerful fortitude. Fortitude is described as “The strength to bear misfortune, pain...calmly and patiently.” That combination of attitude and fortitude is what got Joseph through the messy middle - and it can get us through it too.**

- How is your attitude impacting how you act?
- Do you have fortitude?
- How do you want to remember yourself when you look back on this time?

**At the heart of Joseph’s attitude was his faith in God. He had hope in God for a better future. We can choose to have the same faith and hope within our own set of circumstances to endure and rise up in the end.**

*“It is beyond my power to do this,” Joseph replied. ‘But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease.’” ([Genesis 41:16. NLT](#))*

- What does your faith look like in challenging circumstances?
- How would you describe the strength of your relationship with God?
- Do you know how to wait for God with a positive attitude?

## Next Steps

Waiting isn't easy, but as we learned from Joseph we can choose how we wait. We can practice patience too, often starting with little things and growing it to help us in the bigger challenges. Spend some time practicing patience with a good attitude. Whether it's driving in the slow lane down the road, waiting for your kid(s) to do something that you could do quicker, or giving your co-worker more time to work out a Zoom glitch, practice patience in the little things. Couple that with doing one thing to help you grow closer to God.

Jan. 19: [Money God's Way](#)

Jan. 20: [The Grounds Online Book Club: "A Mind for God"](#)

Jan. 25: [TeamLife Online](#) & [Game Time Online](#)

Jan. 27: [TeamLife Online](#)

## Continued Reading

Read Genesis 39:[4,6,21-23](#); [40:1-23](#); [41:14-16](#). For Joseph's full story, read Genesis chapters 37 and 39-50.

## Prayer

God, you know us and everything that we are going through right now. You not only know, but you care so much more than we could ever know or feel. Thank you for caring and for showing us how you cared for Joseph. Help us to choose to have a positive attitude during our challenges give us strength to give our best in whatever challenges those may be.