

Conversation Starters

- What has been the most thought provoking part of this series for you?
- How will you let that help you in 2021?

Discuss

Many of us need to move on from the past in order to fully embrace a new beginning. Starting with the naming of his children, Joseph sought to do just that by forgetting all that had happened to him and the people who did it. He gave it to God and trusted Him to help him move forward with the rest of his life.

“Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, ‘God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father’s family.’” ([Genesis 41:51, NLT](#))

The apostle Paul, who had his own set of trials, also sought to forget and press on:

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.... I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal....” ([Philippians 3:12-14, NIV](#))

- What do you need to forget about 2020 in order to truly have a new beginning in 2021?
- Are there any emotions that continue to fill your mind and heart that need forgetting?
- Is there anything relationally divisive that you need to forget and move on from?

Joseph named his second son Ephraim, which means “twice fruitful,” and served as a reminder of God’s work in his life and his ongoing trust in God to continue working.

“Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, ‘God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief.’” ([Genesis 41:52, NLT](#))

- How is God working in your life?
- Is there anything keeping you from seeing God’s work in your life?
- How can you continually remind yourself of God’s work in your life?

Next Steps

Review all that we covered in relation to what happened in 2020:

- Will you lose sight of God’s vision for your life, or keep it squarely in front of you as we begin a new year?
- Will you invest in integrity in all that you do so that you experience all that it brings back in return?
- Will you have the kind of positive attitude that creates a powerful fortitude as we’re in the messy middle?
- Will you forget so that you can be blessed?

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

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

Jan. 27: [TeamLife Online](#)

Jan. 28: [Celebrate Recovery Online](#)

Feb. 1: [Financial Peace University Online](#)

Continued Reading

Read [Genesis 41:51-52](#); [Philippians 3:12-14](#). For Joseph’s full story, read Genesis chapters 37 and 39-50.

Prayer

God, you know everything that’s happened in our life. We also know that you have great plans for us, if we’ll just place our trust in you no matter what the circumstances. Thank you for caring for us and for all the work that you’ve done. Help us to forget anything that we need to about our past and anything keeping us from trusting you with our present and future.