

**Taking it Home:**

- What does an intentional, well-planned personal budget look like to you? Create a personal budget based on the “reality” of what you make and what you spend. Looking at you budget, what are some areas you can (1) trim; (2) eliminate; & (3) cut back on so you can start building a savings account?
- Are there some internal reasons why you resist planning, preparing and saving for your family? Pray and ask God to help you deal with the resistance so you may be a wise saver (Prov. 13:22; 21:20)
- Pastor Matthew stated in his message that saving empowers giving. What would it be like to have the freedom to give generously and not worry about having enough money to make ends meet? If you are not currently at the place of being able to be the type of “giver” you desire to be, what changes are you willing to make in your life so you can become a generous giver in the immediate future? Don’t delay, start today.

Momentum  
Savings for Harvest and Famine  
Genesis 41

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
November 14, 2010

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**Savings for Harvest and Famine**

Notes:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 14, 2010

Genesis 41

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**Quick Review:** Joseph, the son of Jacob who had been sold to Egypt by his older brothers, is summoned from prison to the Pharaoh's chambers to interpret a dream. God gave Joseph the interpretation of the dream to Pharaoh; it was a dream that predicted Egypt would go through 7 years of prosperity and then 7 years of famine. Joseph was made the second in command of all Egypt by Pharaoh because of his accurate interpretation of the dream. Just as Joseph predicted, during the 7 years of prosperity and abundance, Joseph planned to save wisely to endure the 7 long years of drought.

## My Story

- Recount a time in your life when you had abundance. Recount a time in your life when you were financially in "famine." Describe what lessons you personally learned in both phases of your life.
- God doesn't always work the way we expect Him to. He will not only get our attention in surprising ways; He will also bring His wisdom and insight into the situation by unexpected means or messengers. Name some means or messengers God brought into your life to get your spiritual, physical or financial attention.
- Share some true accounts of those who you know (this could also mean yourself) who live paycheck to paycheck. Was there a sense of peace, contentment and satisfaction in the lives of those who live paycheck to paycheck? Discuss.

## Growing Deeper

- READ Genesis 41:15-57. In this passage, we see three important principles about saving. Interpret these passages and discover the 3 important principles God desires for His children to know about preparing and saving.
- God intervened by preparing His man, Joseph, to give wise counsel to an Egyptian Pharaoh to prepare for disaster. Trouble is always coming. Everyone faces physical, emotional or financial troubles sometime in their life. What are some steps that Pastor Matthew gave us during his message on how you can personally prepare your family for troubles?
- Joseph's saving plan for Egypt teaches Christian's today to store up for any type of disaster that may impact them. READ Gen. 41:34. How much did Joseph tell Pharaoh had to be "stored up" from all the fields for savings? READ 41:48-49. How many years did Joseph store grain? How much grain did they store at the end? READ Gen. 41:55. Who benefitted from this wise saving of grain? What personal spiritual applications can you glean from these passages for your family?
- By being faithful during the years of plenty, Joseph was able to bless an entire nation. What are some of the principles Pastor Matthew mentioned on how you can be in a position to help your family and others by being a faithful saver?