



**Living Beyond Your Circumstances**  
**Lesson 4: Overcoming Hard Times**  
**Scriptures: Genesis 41:28-36, 46-49 (NIV)**

***Recap: Overcoming Betrayal, Temptation and Being forgotten***  
***Genesis 41:1-13***

**Question:** What is your number one survival tip to prepare for a crisis?

**Genesis 41:28-32**

28 “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.

29 The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout the land of Egypt.

30 But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land.

31 This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased.

32 As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen.

**Genesis 41:33-36**

33 “Therefore, Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt.

34 Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them collect one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years.

35 Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh’s storehouses. Store it away, and guard it so there will be food in the cities.

36 That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come to the land of Egypt. Otherwise this famine will destroy the land.”



### **Genesis 41:46-49**

*46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.*

*47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops.*

*48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities.*

*49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure.*

### **Live It Out**

Since we're best served by following God's plan during a crisis, what should we do in the meantime?

1. Make a list of the ways God has prepared you for where you are today. Be specific.
2. Set aside time this week to thank God for His provision in your life. Praise Him as a source of your success and of your ability to handle trials.
3. Make yourself available to others. Ask the Lord to lead you to someone this week who is in difficulty or crisis, and use your gifts to help in a practical way.

### **Application Questions:**

- What does God's warning tell us about His Character?
- Has God ever given you a clear picture of what to do?
- How is God preparing you for present and future challenges?