Genesis 40

Questions to start you thinking about the chapter - the answers are in verses in the chapter:

1. To whom does Joseph say interpretations of dreams belong?

2. What did Joseph ask the cup bearer to do for him when he got his job back?

3. What was special about the third day when the baker was hanged?

Main points that you see in these sections of the chapter:

v 1 to 8

v 9 to 19

v 20 to 23

Related information to look at: Cup bearer.

There are two Bible references to people being cup bearers:

- Genesis 40 v 2
- Nehemiah 1 v 11

There are also references to King Solomon having cup bearers:

- 1 Kings 10 v 4 and 5

The Bible references don't give any indication of the importance and high rank of the position. A cup bearer served drinks at the royal table. Because of the constant fear of plots and intrigues, a cup bearer had to be thoroughly trustworthy to hold the position. He had to guard against poison in the king's cup and was sometimes required to swallow some of the wine before serving it. His confidential relations with the king often gave him a position of great influence.

What have you personally learnt from this chapter and information?