**Our Dream in God’s eyes**

**Bible Study**

**~Teacher edition~**

4 Lessons breaking down the way God uses our dreams to draw ourselves and others closer to him.

Intro lesson: the example: Joseph and his road map/life story

Lesson 1: The benchmark of the dream

Lesson 2: The giver

Lesson 3: The receiver

Lesson 4: The dream beyond all dreams

**Dreams:** Introduction Lesson

Dreams Intro lesson

Dream by definition is a cherished ambition, aspiration or ideal.

What does it mean to have a dream?

* It means you have something bigger than you to pursue.
* It means you have been given something of value.
* God is assigning you a task that you can only do with his help.
* The impossibilities you may think exist are false.

Ask this question: Do you have a dream?

Make sure to take note of what they say and build on it…have a conversation about the birth of that dream and where it came from (inspiration, thought, idea, conversation that could have brought it about.) Don’t be afraid to talk about your dream also, when dreamers connect there is a certain bond that forms. Let God lead you in this conversation. Ask more questions if necessary and don’t be afraid to use this conversation as a tool to help deepen the study. You will find you can speak more specifically and directly to each other. Intimacy will form, don't worry about being awkward at first. Just flow. Small details matter.

Ask this question: Do you believe God will help you?

Let them explain their answer…ask the hard question…why?

Ecclesiastes 3:14 (KJV)

14I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Proverbs 16:3 (KJV)

3Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established.

Dreams given by God are Promises but you have to work

* Three core components of working
  + Time
  + Energy
  + Effort

Proverbs 12:27 (KJV)

27The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

Proverbs 13:4 (KJV)

4The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

This does not mean that God won’t Aid you.

Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)

6In all thine ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.

**The Story of Joseph:**

Joseph is a Prime example of how God works in processes

* Concerning our dreams and our lives (Ex:Genesis 1-2:2)

Prime example: Creation (Genesis 1-2:2) 6 days of creation, one day of rest. God could’ve created the earth with one breath but chose rather to take his time. When God creates something from nothing he intends to let it build over time. Consider this illustration…a flower doesn’t just show up. The ground must be prepared beforehand. The seeds must be planted. Proper maintenance must be ensured. Water, sunlight, oxygen, and CO2 are crucial elements of a thriving plant. If you want that plant to bear fruit it must be tended to with care and attention. God lets the beauty settle over time rather than slap it on an empty canvas. **This is why change takes time. This is why transformation from old to new takes time. If everything were immediate, where would the depth be? Yes there are examples in the gospels that express the quickness of Christ and there will be times when he moves immediately in our lives also but don’t get caught up in immediacy because in the stance of Christ, “immediately” in the Gospels was still *his timing (emphasize this).***

* Concerning our Lives
* Concerning our future
* Concerning our Hopes and dreams
* Concerning our Faith

God’s timing is the best timing No Matter What

* Why?

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (KJV)

11He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

2 Peter 3:8-9 (KJV)

8But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some me count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Proverbs 27:1

1Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Joseph’s Testimony is his story of how God used his Trials to put him in Position to Fulfill the dream he’d been given.

**Who is Joseph?**

* One of 12 sons born of Israel, the Favored son. {Genesis 37:3}
* The Dreamer of Genesis. {Genesis 37:19}
* A man Prospered by God. {Genesis 39:2}
* A man whose dream was interpreted by God. {Genesis 37-50}

**The Introduction Of The Dream-The Birth Of The Dream**

Genesis 37:3-4 (KJV)

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. 4And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Before everything, Joseph was set apart, he was favored by his Father above his brothers.

There will always be a certain distinction.

What sets you apart?

* Joseph was set apart by his father Jacob (Israel)
* Joseph was made distinct by the colors of his coat, gifted to him by his father.
* Distinction often fuels the discontent of others and their intentions toward you.
  + Do not despise them for their opinion of you. Love them anyway. They are not your enemy. {Matthew 5:43-44}{Genesis 50:19-20}

Genesis 37:5-11 (KJV)

5And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them,6Hear I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and stood upright; and, behold your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance (a gesture of differential respect such as a bow or curtsy) to my sheaf. 8And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? Or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams and his words. 9And he dreamed yet another dream, and told his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

**What do we see here?**

The Scope of Joseph’s dream was beyond the interpretation of those who had not received it.

This is not an uncommon occurrence, sometimes even the dreamer doesn’t have the full view of the dream and it can still cause tears in the fabric of what was normal (i.e in family affairs, work, friendships) . because of the scale of your dream no matter how big or small, there will be those who observe and those who envy/hate you for it. REMEMBER THIS…YOUR DREAM IS NOT ABOUT YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU STAND IN THE MATTER, YOU WILL SEE HOW THE FRUIT OF A TREE IS MEANT TO BE PICKED BY THOSE AROUND IT, NOT THE TREE ITSELF.

We see the seed of scorn was planted in his brother’s hearts.

* They did not have a proper interpretation nor the ears to accept what was presented.
* They despised him for having a dream that appeared to pin them beneath his feet
* Joseph’s Dream became a perceived threat to their pride. (imagine you already know he’s the favorite son and in your father’s eyes you were less. Then, he comes with an outrageous dream…how would you feel?)

BUT we see a carelessness of Joseph’s end

* Always be considerate of who you share your dream with.

THOUGH we see some characteristics Joseph displays that we can apply to our lives.

* Follow God’s instruction
* Don’t be afraid to get excited about what God has given you!
* Don’t be afraid of rejection.
* Be Receptive of God’s voice/message
  + God speaks in many ways (i.e. his word, audibly, visions, dreams, etc.)
  + Joseph Listened and accepted what was shown to him.
* Joseph didn’t question the dream.
  + It is important to know the source.
    - There’s a difference between a carnal and Godly dream.

**After this Joseph is sold by his brothers into slavery.**

* Slavery became Joseph’s Avenue to the promise God gave him.
* God had begun to use Joseph’s misfortune to set the stage for his ascent (uprising).

Genesis 39:2 (KJV)

And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

* From slave to Serving in the master’s house.
* God was over the circumstances.

Joseph wasn’t any ordinary slave…despite his circumstances he served his master well and with intention…

Genesis 39:3-6 (KJV)

3And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house and in the field. 6And he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Joseph’s Service and God’s Favor put him in position to Serve with greater influence.

Joseph’s integrity (goodliness) established Trust with his master.

Joseph’s dream seemed Far away but God’s Favor was with him.

Notice Joseph did not make himself prosper.

* + The Lord did.

It wasn’t what Joseph did that made him favorable; it was who he was. His character shined above his ability. God handled the rest.

**Joseph is tempted**

Genesis 39:7-9 (KJV)

7And it came to pass after these things, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master wotteth not (doesn’t know) what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Temptation is inevitable.

* + Joseph Couldn’t control what tempted him but he did control his Response.
  + Joseph’s response to temptation was God honoring not self pleasing.
  + An Honorable No is better than a Reluctant Yes.
  + Temptation is a tactic of the enemy. Resist.

James 4:17(KJV)

17Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Key point

Who did Joseph consider first in the matter? God or his master?

Who would he be sinning against in his eyes?

James 4:7-8 (KJV)

7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. 8Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Joseph was submitted to God.

* His Thoughts
* Actions
* Deeds
* Were all surrendered to God’s authority.

Note: The hindrance of resistance is the absence of submission. (you have no authority without submission to God)

THOUGH

Joseph’s “no” led him to prison, his integrity kept him alive. {Genesis 39:11-23}

Note: In these times if any man were caught with another man’s wife, he and she would be put to death. {Leviticus 20:10}

The Lord was still with him. {Genesis 39:2-3, 21, 23}

Prison, though it appeared to be another place of bondage became another stepping stone for Joseph’s dream.

Once again Joseph was elevated by God in the midst of perceived bondage. This time it was not Potiphar but the keeper of the prison who left everything in Joseph’s hand. He was in the king’s prison. He served his position. When a moment of opportunity arrived in the very place he served.

This time Joseph didn't have the dream, two others did, the chief of the butlers and the chief of the bakers. {Genesis 40:1-3,8}

Genesis 40:6-8 (KJV)

6And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them and, behold, they were sad. 7And he asked Pharaoh’s officers that were with him in the ward of his lord’s house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly this day? 8And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God. tell me them, I pray you.

Note this: Joseph did not claim himself to be an interpreter, he turned their attention to God.

Our dreams are not for us to interpret. We will not always understand the depth behind them with our own minds.

To the Chief butler the interpretation of his dream was life and restoration. (this is our hope as Christians){Genesis 40:9-13}

To the Chief baker the interpretation of his dream was death and destruction. (this is what we wish to be saved from as Christians){Genesis 40:16-19}

We don’t have the details as to how they offended Pharaoh but to each God confirmed their sentence. And to Joseph he confirmed his promise: his dream too would soon be interpreted by God.

Interpretation simply means to be put into an understandable perspective.

Joseph told the Chief butler to remember him but was forgotten. {Genesis 40:23}

* + Just because people forget you doesn’t mean God does.
  + You are valuable in his eyes {Matthew 6:28-34}

2 years passed by and Pharaoh had a dream. But he didn’t seek God first.

Genesis 41:8 (KJV)

8And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

After 2 years the chief butler remembers Joseph,

* at the right time
* in the right place
* for the Right person.

He recalls what he did for him and the chief baker. And Joseph was brought forth and Pharaoh speaks to him as he would an officer.

Genesis 41:16 (KJV)

16And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Who will give Pharaoh an answer of peace? God.

It is not in us to interpret the dream, that’s not our job.

From this interpretation Joseph is elevated to a rank where no man can stand above him except the Pharaoh himself.

God did it! God fulfilled his dream…not yet.

**Completion**

Joseph served Pharaoh and all of the land of Egypt. Though he was a stranger in the land God positioned him to where he could have a peculiar influence.

He sustained them in prosperity and Shielded them from the dangers of famine by the grace of God.

Joseph was still in the midst of interpreting Pharaoh’s dream but while in action.

During the time of the famine Joseph’s dream finds him. His brothers arrive in Egypt in desperate need of provision. Does Joseph hate them for what they did, no. he instead invites them in with love though at first he puts on an air to appear as a stranger to them for they had not seen him in 13 years.

Joseph didn’t rub his status in their faces. He called for all of them to leave and return with all eleven brothers. When he saw them all again he wept because he loved them. The dream was fulfilled.

But there was still work to be done. {to read the whole story in detail read Genesis 36-50}

Genesis 50:19-20

19And Joseph said unto them, fear not; for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; 20but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day. To save much people alive.

Instead of cutting off those who betrayed him, Joseph provided them with land to build upon. This would become the land of the tribes of Israel.

One dream built over time can establish nations of hope.

Though Joseph endured he maintained his focus: God

And his Character, displayed in his integrity + faith.

Remember when it’s in God’s hands, you are a passenger of his will.

End of Intro lesson.

*Homework*

**Write down a prayer concerning your dream and spend at least 15 minutes a day until the next meeting praying over it.** Prayer is a conversation with God…don’t overthink it. Be real. Hide nothing. Express concerns, thoughts, ideas, start to build a relationship with the one who gave you this wonderful gift we call a dream.

**Read the story of Joseph for yourself {Genesis 36-50}**…note things that stick out and come prepared with thoughts on the subject to discuss.