**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

**Lesson 1:** The Benchmark Of The Dream.

Lesson 1: The Benchmark Of The Dream

A benchmark is a **standard** or point of reference against which things may be compared or assessed

Our focus for this portion of the bible study is the Standard in which we should pursue our dreams.

Standards are the assessment of the Level or quality of something.

What is the quality of our pursuit measured by?

Our level of faith: all-in or as long as it works.

Our ability to Trust God and his Will.

Our commitment to integrity.

Our submission to God.

Our focus.

Our commitment to putting in the work and devotion.

Our ability to wait.

Our crowd/audience.

Anything that is not submitted to God will not be influenced by him.

Proverbs 12:1 (KJV)

 1Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

Proverbs 3:12 (KJV)

 12For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Proverbs 11:28 (KJV)

 28He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Proverbs 12:11 (KJV)

 11He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

 Vain= 1: having or showing undue or excessive pride in one's appearance or achievements : conceited. 2: marked by futility or ineffectualness : unsuccessful, useless.

When it comes to faith we have to be willing to admit we don’t have all the answers.

* We have to take God at his word
	+ The most consistent way to hear from God is through studying the bible.
	+ Why? Every word in the Bible was written by the inspiration of God. indicating that he is the source of all scripture and biblical teaching.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)

 16All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

We have to answer questions like

* Who is in control?
* Why are we chasing this dream in the first place?
* Where are we heading?
* How far are we willing to go?
* What is the will of God regarding our pursuits?

We need help, and that’s nothing to be ashamed of.

How often do we consider how God wants to help us? Do we ask him for help? Do we like to wait on his guidance or do we prefer to do it our own way?

Our faith lies in our ability to Let go of the wheel and be guided.

It’s not easy; if it were everyone would have it.

Not everyone is born with unwavering faith. It’s a work in progress.

Lamentations 3:25 (KJV)

 25The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

Luke 17:5 (KJV)

 5And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.

Our faith in God is the fuel that will either fuel or kill the dream because it determines how much we will rely and trust in God’s will.

Pride is the number one killer of all dreams. We cannot trust God and rely on ourselves to make things happen. Yes, we have to work but no, we cannot force our desire down God’s throat. Our will unless aligned with God’s is often vain and fruitless.

Vanity is linked to the flesh’s selfish, fallen nature.

When we are focused on ourselves, our first thought is not the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV)

 33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

Consider this…

Proverbs 8:12-14 (KJV)

 12I wisdom dwell with *prudence*, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. 13The *fear* of the Lord is to ***hate*** evil: **pride**, and **arrogancy**, and the **evil way**, and the **froward mouth**, do I hate. 14Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

Key words:

Prudence: The ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason or Skill and good judgment in the management of affairs.

Fear: The reverence and respect of a higher power or authority.

Hate: The feeling of intense or passionate dislike of something.

Pride: Self-respect or improper and excessive self-esteem known as conceit or arrogance {biblical definition}

Arrogancy: Exaggerating or disposed to exaggerate one’s own worth or importance often by an overbearing manner.

Froward: willful and disobedient. Perverse. Deceitful. False.

Proverbs 16:18-20 (KJV)

 18Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 19Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. 20He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

Proverbs 15:33 (KJV)

 33The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 26:12 (KJV)

 12Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him.

Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

Pride will cause one to lie of their motives where integrity would cause someone to tell the truth and nothing but the truth about all practices.

Integrity is honorable in God’s eyes. When you have integrity you become like Joseph…you don’t consider a sin done against someone as a sin against them but as sin against God.

Consistency in maintaining and building one’s integrity is critical for developing trust. Not just from people but from God also.

Luke 16:10 (KJV)

 10He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust also in much.

Proverbs 19:1 (KJV)

 1Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Read the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

There is a result to every action we do and don’t take. We will receive accordingly. Consider what you’re willingly pouring in or avoiding.

Value is added to a dream when intention is backed by commitment and application.

Read the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)

A dream is a Spiritual assignment that requires Spiritual attention.

So what is the benchmark of a Spiritual pursuit?

* Prayer {1 Thessalonians 5:17, 2 Timothy 1:3-14, 1 Samuel 12:23, 1 Timothy 2:8, 1 Timothy 4:4-6}
* Fasting {Isaiah 58:6-7, Matthew 17:21, Ezra 8:23}
* Obedience {1 Samuel 15:22, John 14:15, John 15:10, John 14:24, John 15:14, Proverbs 8:36}
* Sacrifice {Genesis 24:59, Romans 12:1, Psalm 51:17, Romans 12:2, Psalm 4:5, Philippians 2:3}
* Surrender {1Peter 5:7, Matthew11:28-30, Galatians 6:3, 1 Peter 5:6-7, James 4:10 Romans 12:1}
* Faith {Isaiah 58:2, Hebrews 12:2, James 1:6, Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 11:1-6, John 3:16, Matthew 21:21}
* Patience {Proverbs 29:9, 2 Peter 1:16, Psalm 27:14, James 1:3, Psalm 37:7, Hebrews 10:36}

**To be a dreamer is to uphold a standard that pleases God. We are not in this for ourselves no matter how much it may appear to benefit us. Our increase is not our purpose. It is not our benchmark. Our benchmark is Christ and honoring his character and being with our lives.**

***For my ministers, note this…the greatest ministry you have is not the one where you rule the mic—it’s your life without it.***

*Homework*

**Write down a new prayer concerning your goals 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 and evaluate Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 16:3.**

Come to the next lesson with notesa and questions.