**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

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**This is the most important part.**

In order for a dreamer to experience the dream God has given them in its fullness…

1. The dreamer must know who the giver is.
2. The dreamer must pursue the giver’s purpose. *(the only way to know the giver is to pursue him)*
3. The dreamer must submit to the giver’s hope. *(the only way to submit to the giver is to pursue him.)*
4. The dreamer must understand who they are in the giver’s eyes. *(the only way to understand who we are to the giver is to submit to him.)*
5. The dreamer must become like the giver. *(the only way to become like the giver is to understand all of these…who we are, what his purpose is, his hope, who he is, and buy into the process.)*

**THE DREAM BEYOND ALL DREAMS IS TO HAVE A TRUE, GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GIVER.**

We are people who rely on relationships.

* We value relationships.
* We covet (want) relationships.
* We need relationships.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 (KJV)

 9Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.11Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

Which means we value other things as a result. Most of our core values consist of…

* Our appearance.
* Our status.
* Our relevance.
* Our crowd’s opinion of who we should be.
* Culture and its dominance around us.

Naturally we do not want to be considered outcasts or strangers.

BUT AT WHAT COST?

The cost we all face as a result is our lives.

Freedom is not attained by staying where the world wants you.

We fight hard to fit in with people and tend to forget that most human relationships are temporary or seasonal.

We have a longing for love and acceptance. We want to be understood, heard, and valued.

* Temporary relationships pass away with time. (i.e. death, disagreement, drift apart, shift in values, etc.) (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)
* Eternal relationships remain forever. (Christ in eternal life or the enemy toward eternal death and separation.) (Revelation 21:8, Daniel 12:2) 

 

A relationship with Christ is…

* Intimate
* Delicate
* Transformative
* Rewarding beyond comparison
* Challenging
* Self-sacrificing
* Beautiful beyond words
* Captivating
* Refining
* And the list goes on

Do not settle for lukewarm faith. In other words, a surface-level relationship will not last.

Revelation 3:16 (KJV)

 16So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Questions we need to answer are…

Why do I love God?

Do I love God? (consider this verse: John 14:15)

Does my life reflect my first two answers?

What is my desire with Christ?

Do I have a desire to know Christ?

1 John 4:19 (KJV)

 19We love him, because he first loved us.

John 14:23 (KJV)

 23Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

How do we embrace the love of God? How do we embrace the dream beyond all dreams?

Obedience, what does the word of God say?

Romans 8:9 (KJV)

 9But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God **dwell in you**. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.

Have you received it since you’ve yet believed? (Acts 19:2)

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God that comes to dwell in us.

* This is expressed in a letter by Paul written to the church of Ephesus. (Ephesians 4:6)
* Just as God came to dwell with us, he wants to now live in us. (John 1:14)

It is the comforter Jesus spoke of to his disciples. (John 15:25-27)

It is our saving grace and key to our redemption. (Ephesians 2:8)(Romans 5:8)

* Do not abuse the idea of grace. (Read-Romans 6:1-14)\*

It gives us authority over our flesh. (Romans 6:14)

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Acts chapter two gives record of the birth of the church. In Acts chapter two we see the first infilling of the Holy Ghost or more commonly known as the Holy Spirit.

* In this chapter alone we have record of 3,000 people accepting and receiving the Gospel and being added to the church.

Acts is the only book of the bible with quantitative data on how many were filled with the Holy Spirit. (all followed the process expressed in Acts 2:38)

Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)

 1And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

There’s a parallel here. Verse 2. What do we see?

* There is a breath of life poured into the room.

Where else do we see something like this?

* Adam. (Read Genesis 1:7)

The evidence of Adam’s livelihood lied simply in the fact that he lived. But died the moment he sinned.

* He didn’t die naturally.
* He died spiritually.

So we must be breathed into again, the breath of life being the Holy Ghost. Only this time the evidence is represented in the tongue in which we confess Christ and deny the world.

It’s more than confessing that Jesus is Lord and “accepting him into our hearts”, these are things we can do of our own power. We don’t need God to make these claims. There needs to be a true transition.

Acts 2:38 puts it simply…

 38Then Peter said unto them, Repent (turn away from sin), and be baptized (washed from your sins) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ (the only saving name) for the remission of sins, and ye **shall** receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

God has given us the ability to identify with his death (i.e repentance), his burial (expressed explicitly in Romans chapter 6 {through baptism}), and his resurrection (through the infilling of the Holy Ghost).

This is a motion of faith. Not a motion of fulfilling a list of steps and rules…that’s religion.

Relationship says, “I want to have a genuine connection with you, a bond that goes beyond explanation, and if this is what I must do to receive that, I’ll do it because I want to love you as you love me even in my brokenness.”

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

 8But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**So I ask you…**

What’s stopping you?

Questions…comments?

Consider the story of Philip and the Eunuch. {Acts 8:26-40}

Key verse (Read Acts 8:36)

If you have already received in this way the next step is to live.

Live like Christ matters in your life.

THIS IS THE DREAM BEYOND ALL DREAMS AND IT’S FREE TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH.

Note: You can receive the holy ghost anywhere. Some have received it in the car, basement, shower, walking into their house, etc. God is not limited to a building. The bible says…

Matthew 7:7-8

 7Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8for every one that asketh recieveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

This is God’s promise to you.