



**Week 1 - Disruptive Dreams?
October 29 2023**

Read Genesis 37:2-11

1. Have you ever had a strange or recurring dream? If so, what was it about?
2. Have you ever had a dream while you were sleeping that felt like it was from God? If so, what was God saying to you?
3. [Read Acts 2:17-18](#). Not all dreams happen when we're sleeping. The Holy Spirit stirs up desires within us through all sorts of experiences. Has God ever given you a dream, a passion, or a vision for how you are called to live your life?
4. Rob suggested that dreams mess with our lives and disrupt our equilibrium. Can you think of stories in the Bible where someone's life was disrupted because of a vision/dream/invitation from God?
5. Read [Genesis 37:2-11](#). In what ways was Joseph's dream dangerous and disruptive.
6. How did Joseph's brothers react to his dreams? How did Joseph's father react? Why do you think they reacted this way?
7. Rob said that sometimes our dreams die because other people shoot them down. Has anyone ever tried to kill a dream you had? How did you respond?
8. Rob said that sometimes our dreams die because we give up on them. Have you ever given up on a dream and just let it die? What caused you to do that.
9. Do you support other people in their dreams? Why or why not?
10. In what ways did Joseph's family history create problems for him? Has your past ever held you back from pursuing your dreams?

HOMEWORK: Read all of [Genesis 37-50](#) or follow along with this [audio version](#).



Week 2 - Dream or Nightmare
November 5 2023

1. If you're comfortable, share a bad dream you've had. Did it involve some place, predicament, peril, or pain?
2. Have you ever experienced having your dreams dashed in some way? Did it cause you to blame God? Why or why not?
3. Read [Genesis 37:12-16](#). Joseph was sent to a scary place called Shechem to find his brothers. According to Genesis 34, why is this such a detestable place?
4. Have you ever ended up in a place/job/relationship/situation you really didn't want to be in? What was your response? What was Joseph's response?
5. As you read Genesis 37 we learn that Joseph's brothers clearly didn't like him. Why not? Have you ever had people team up on you? Exclude you? Avoid you? How did you respond?
6. Read [Genesis 37:18-28](#). Joseph found himself in a life and death situation with his wicked brothers. Where do we see people's lives being threatened by danger today? Have you ever faced a life or death situation? Can you think of someone who faced peril with courage and faith?
7. How did the events of Genesis 37 result in pain for Joseph? For Joseph's father? Do you think the brothers themselves also suffered as a result of what they did? Why or why not?
8. Who is to blame for the nightmare Joseph endured in Genesis 37? Was it Joseph's fault? His brothers'? God's?
9. What do we mean when we talk about God's providence? Where do we see God's providence at work in Joseph's story?
10. Have you experienced God's providence at work in your own life? If so, what did that look like?



Week 3 - Dreams and Distractions
November 12 2023

1. Rob mentioned that we live in a 'culture of distraction.' What are the little things that threaten to distract you day by day?
2. Rob named two 'big' distractions that can derail our dreams: The allure of Power and temptation of Pleasure. Where have you ever witnessed or experienced the abuse of power? Do you know of situations where sexual temptation led to someone's downfall? What is the connection between abuse of power and sexual temptation?
3. In Genesis 39:1-20 we read of Joseph's rise to power. What are some of the signs of Joseph's power and prominence?
4. Both Potiphar's wife and Joseph possessed power. Compare and contrast how each of them used their power.
5. What is the right way to wield power? What is the wrong way?
6. Do you have power/authority over others? How can you be sure to exercise your power in a godly way?
7. What were some of the factors that made the sexual advances of Potiphar's wife so challenging for Joseph?
8. What strategies and principles did Joseph use to defeat the sexual temptation he faced?
9. How do you think our current culture would respond to Joseph's ethical stance toward sex and promiscuity?
10. Thinking about Jesus' life and death, what can we learn about how to handle worldly power and pleasure?



Week 4 - Dream Job

November 19 2023

Read Genesis 41:39-57

1. How many different jobs have you worked in your life? Which was the best one?
2. What would be your dream job?
3. Read Genesis 41:40-43. Rob suggested that Joseph's job title was best described as a "minister." What is a minister? What do they do? In what ways is your own job a ministry?
4. Throughout Joseph's story he was given increased responsibilities. Where do we see Joseph being promoted throughout his life?
5. Jesus said, "He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much." (Luke 16:10) How is this statement reflective of Joseph's life? Are there any shortcuts to a successful career? Do you find it hard to be content and faithful with the work God has given us to do? Has God entrusted you with more responsibility over time?
6. The difficult trials Joseph went through equipped him for his ultimate ministry. Can you relate? Have painful experiences in the past helped you become who you are today? How have past experiences affected your career trajectory?
7. Rob said that the experiences that we regret and resent the most in life are often preparing us for our greatest job in life. Have you found this to be true?
8. In Genesis 41:32-45 we see Pharaoh providing Joseph with everything he needs to do his job. How has God provided for you in your life or your career?
9. Genesis 41:47-55 outlines the job description/tasks of Joseph's job. As ministers of God's kingdom, what is our job description? What tasks are we supposed to be doing (see for example Matthew 10:5-8 or Matthew 28:19-20)
10. How can you approach your job/studies this week differently knowing that our jobs can be used to further God's dream?



Week 5 - Reunion and Reconciliation

November 26 2023

Read Genesis 41:1-15

1. As we're wrapping up our series on Joseph, in what ways have you started to see the story in a new way?
2. In today's sermon, we heard about how Joseph's brothers came to the realization that God (in the figure of Joseph) was not *out to get them*, but was actually *out to save them*. Can you think of a time in your life when you thought that God was angry at you, or that he had even abandoned you, and it turned out that he was there all along? What can we do to make sure we don't forget this?
3. One of the most powerful moments in the Joseph story is when he realizes that God had a plan for him all along - even when it seemed like life was nothing but a tragedy. Looking back on your life, in what ways has God 're-written' your story?
4. How can we encourage others that God has a plan for them, too?
5. When God gives Joseph and his brothers the eyes to see him in their lives, it draws them together and restores them to a family. How has coming to know God in your life drawn you toward other believers?
6. How can we begin to see each other as evidence of God's grace?