



Discussion Guide

Date: 9/7/2025

Sermon Title: What do my dreams mean?

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we gather today with open hearts and minds, ready to hear your voice through your Word. Like Joseph, we too have dreams—some bold, some confusing, some yet unspoken. Teach us to listen not just for what we want, but for what you desire to do through us. Give us the humility to seek your will and the courage to follow it. Guide our conversation so that we may be shaped into people who bless others in your name. - Amen.

Opening Question:

1. How have dreams or visions played a role in your spiritual journey, and how do you discern if they are messages from God?

Digging into the Word:

1. What do you notice about Joseph's attitude in how he shares his dreams (vv. 5–11)?
2. How do you think his brothers felt when they heard his dreams?
3. Have you ever had a dream, goal, or ambition that others didn't understand or support? How did you respond?
4. In what ways might Joseph's dreams be more about his own ego than God's purpose at this point in the story?
5. How might God use the process of humbling Joseph to shape him for leadership later in the story (Genesis 39–50)?

Read Philippians 2:3–5 (NRSV): "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves."

6. How can this passage help us discern whether our dreams are from God or rooted in self-interest?

Wesleyan Insight:

John Wesley taught that God's grace works in stages: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying.

7. How might Joseph's story illustrate God's sanctifying grace—the ongoing work of the Spirit to shape us in holiness and love for others?
8. Where do you see God's grace already at work in Joseph, even in his immaturity?

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Sermon Questions:

1. In the sermon this week and the next four weeks we are looking at Joseph. Dreams play a part of the biblical story according to Pastor Clayton. Dreams were seen as divine messages. How do you view dreams in your own life? Have you ever felt God speaking to you through a dream?
2. Joseph shared his dreams with his family, which led to resentment from his brothers. How can we discern when to share our dreams and aspirations with others? How do we handle opposition to our dreams?
3. Pastor Clayton says, "When you have a dream, really a godly, great, bold, wonderful dream for your life, don't expect everyone to be excited about it." Have you experienced this in your own life? How did you respond?
4. In Joseph's story, God seems absent when terrible things are happening to him. Have you ever felt God was absent during difficult times in your life? How did you maintain faith during those moments?
5. The sermon draws parallels between Joseph's story and the story of Jesus. How do you see God's dream for the world realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?
6. How does participating in communion connect you to the larger dream of God for the world, as described in the sermon?

Applying it:

7. We are reminded this week of the church's ongoing dream of reaching people for Christ. How do you see yourself participating in this dream? What role can our small group play in fulfilling this dream?
8. How do you maintain faith and trust in God's plan when your dreams seem to be thwarted or destroyed?
9. In what ways can we, as individuals and as a community, actively participate in bringing God's dreams for the world to fruition?

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the time we've shared reflecting on your Word. Help us to dream big dreams, not for our glory, but for your kingdom. Where we are proud, humble us. Where we are discouraged, lift us up. Shape us into people who lead with compassion, serve with humility, and love with sincerity. May the dreams you place in our hearts reflect your desire to bless others through us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. -Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Take some time to prayerfully consider what dreams God might have placed in your heart. Write them down and share one with the group next week.
2. Think of someone in your life who has shared a dream or aspiration with you. How can you actively support and encourage them this week?
3. Take the Dream study deeper this Sept with a [3-day reading plan each week of Joseph here](#).