

Hope Church

Sunday Sermon 11/17/24

To watch sermon, click here: [▶ 2024-11-17](#)

Life Group Discussion Guide: The Dreamer - The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37:1–50:20)

Session Goals:

- **Main Idea:** God is always at work, even when life doesn't go as planned. His purposes will prevail for His glory and our good.
- **Head Change:** Understand that God's plans may include detours, but they are never outside His control or goodness.
- **Heart Change:** Trust God's faithfulness in the midst of trials and challenges.
- **Life Change:** Embrace a perspective of faith that blooms where God plants you, even in hard circumstances.

Opening Discussion:

Question: Have you ever had a dream for your life that didn't work out as planned? How did you respond?

Introduce the story of Joseph, a young man whose God-given dreams were challenged by betrayal, hardship, and detours. Despite this, God worked all things for good.

Scripture Reading:

Read: Genesis 37:1–36, 39:1–23, and 50:15–21 (selected key sections).

Focus on Joseph's early dreams, his trials, and his ultimate reconciliation with his family.

Discussion Questions:

1. Understanding the Text:

- What were Joseph's dreams in Genesis 37? How did his family respond?
- How did God work in Joseph's life during his time as a slave and a prisoner?
- In Genesis 50:20, Joseph says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." How does this summarize Joseph's story?

2. Connecting to Life:

- Have you ever felt like life wasn't going as planned? How did that affect your faith?
- What are some ways you've seen God work through unexpected or painful situations?

3. Personal Reflection:

- Joseph "bloomed where he was planted," excelling even in difficult circumstances. What steps can you take to thrive in the season of life you are in now?
- How does trusting in God's plan change the way you handle disappointments?

Additional Reading and Reflection:

- **Romans 8:28:** How does this verse reinforce the theme of God working for good in all situations?
- **John 16:33:** Reflect on Jesus' promise of peace despite trials. How can this bring comfort in challenging times?

Reflection Questions:

- How can you recognize God's presence in your current struggles?
 - What "dreams" might God be refining in your life right now?
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Application and Personal Commitment:

1. **Change Your Outlook:** Identify one area in your life where you need to shift from asking "Why is this happening?" to "What is God teaching me?"
 2. **Look for Opportunities:** Write down one practical way you can serve or bless others in your current circumstances.
 3. **Trust God for the Outcome:** Memorize Proverbs 3:5–6 to remind yourself to rely on God's wisdom and timing.
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Last Word:

God's plans are always bigger and better than ours, even when we can't see the full picture. Like Joseph, we can trust that God is at work in every season of life. Let's choose to dream big, bloom where we're planted, and trust Him for the outcome.

Go Deeper:

Optional Devotional:

- Read Genesis 39:1–6. Reflect on how God's presence was with Joseph, even in slavery. Write a prayer thanking God for being with you in your challenges.
- Journal: List 3 ways you've seen God use hardships in your life for good.

This session encourages us to hold onto God's promises, no matter the detours life may bring. Let's keep dreaming and trusting in His perfect plan.