

Series: In Your Dreams

Scripture and Background Information for October 30-Nov.5.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

The vast majority of our stories get lived in the gap between our dreams and our destiny. Whichever direction we believe our story is trending, very few of us ever feel like we're "living the dream" for very long. If God has a dream for our life, why does so little of our life feel like we're living inside it? What do we do when our dreams are deferred, or detoured, or... dead? During this series we'll look at a man whose extraordinary story begins with a dream and ends with a destiny that looks exactly like the dream... and nothing like it at all. We'll discover what to expect from our God-sized dreams, specific ways to keep them on track, and how to live when our dreams feel more like a nightmare. Ultimately we'll discover that with every twist, turn, and test of the dream, there is a Dream Weaver we can trust. Even (maybe especially) when He is most difficult to see.

Background for Genesis 41:1-16:

We are in week three of our series on the life of Joseph. His story is the longest of the sections in the book of Genesis. Joseph bridges the gaps between the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) and the present day struggle of Israel as slaves in Egypt (Remember, Genesis was written by Moses shortly after the exodus). Joseph's story reminds us of the ups and downs the Lord can take a person on and ultimately the redemption that can be secured both for them and those around them. In Genesis 41 we see a call back as Joseph remains in prison but Pharaoh has a dream and no one is able to interpret it. The cup-bearer remembers what Joseph had done in interpreting his dream and Pharaoh calls Joseph. This section of the text reminds us what to do and how to live when it seems that our dreams may never come true. When we focus on the Dream Giver rather than a dream, we are able to make the most of every opportunity, serve others, and declare our dependence upon Him.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. How do we typically respond when our circumstances prevent us from living out the dreams we think the Lord has for us? What allows us to keep our faith in the Lord in the midst of adversity?
2. It's been said, "humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less (often)". How have we seen Joseph exude humility? What makes that so incredible considering his circumstances?
3. Joseph's response to Pharaoh sees him deflect the ability to interpret and instead give God credit. What does that look like for us today? How do we find ways to honestly and regularly give the Lord glory for the ways He works in and through us?
4. As you continue to think about this series, in what ways are you able to gain clarity about the dreams you have for your life and how the Lord has worked in big and small ways?