

## Dream On!

Scripture used: Gen. 41:52 NLT

### OVERVIEW

**Big Idea:** Whatever stage of life you are in, don't stop dreaming!

Happy New Year! In this first day of a year new to us, we are claiming God's promise in Gen. 41:52 to make us fruitful in the land of our grief, not necessarily wealthy or powerful or productive, but fruitful in only the way that God can bring about. We are trusting God to fulfill that promise to us as He did to Joseph so long ago in the land of Egypt. Our prayer to God is, "God, we need You! Pour out Your Spirit on us. We trust Your great news! Reveal Your plan to us as You make us fruitful in this season of our lives and in this land of our grief!"

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **God is a big giver of dreams:**
  - a. **Cling to the dreams which God provides.** The dreams God gave to Joseph took 13 years to bring to fulfillment, but they *were* fulfilled. Abraham was 99 years old, and Sarah was a fresh 90 when she conceived and gave birth to Isaac, the son of promise. It is easy to let circumstances suffocate our will to dream and dull the excitement of what God has put in our hearts. Don't let circumstances steal those dreams away!
  - b. **God keeps giving us a fresh dream.** Our God is a faithful God who brings our hearts to a place of His making even when we don't see what He is doing or how He is doing it. He is One who makes us bear fruit.
  - c. **It is possible to very religious but still miss the fact that God is the One giving dreams.** Even though Joseph was a son in a prominent Jewish family, no one saw that God was giving Joseph big dreams. Joseph's family only saw petty jealousy, dysfunctional behaviour and strife rather than God's hand in action. It was only later that the family recognized the role God played, using Joseph to save two great nations from destruction and chaos.
  - d. **God's plans and dreams are meant to be more than just about you.** Joseph went from prison inmate to the second highest official in the nation of Egypt in one day. God placed Joseph in a key role to help save both Egypt and Israel.
- 2) **God's dreams are so BIG they require God's involvement!** God never gives you a dream He doesn't intend to work out. Each dream will depend on a success only possible except with God's help.
- 3) **Grief is the result of us losing sight of God's dreams for our lives. Losing sight of God in action results in our feeling of loss and grief.** "Grief in 2017" could be from the feeling that nothing is going to change. Year after year we make resolutions, only to see them fail and be restated the year after, and the year after that. The evidence of "no change" is a source of grief.
- 4) **Grief can be obvious (death, broken relationships, etc) or not so obvious (retirement, empty nests, etc.) but the grief is still very real.** Grief is a place of loss and suffering. It is a place where purpose, contribution, breakdowns, loss of routines and despair can set in as constant companions. We need more meaning in our lives. We can focus on what is lost or we can focus on the dream God has given us.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Did you catch the Great News for you? God has a plan to make you fruitful in your land in 2017! What fruit would you like to produce in this season of your life?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Try to identify the one God sized dream He wants for you in your life. What does it mean for you to own it? What does the next step look like (i.e. are you willing to share or disclose it with someone else?)
- 3) **DO** - Take the January challenge! Over the next 4 weeks, read Genesis Ch 37, 39-45 to see the story of Joseph and his family unfold. Take 2 steps: (1) schedule 15 minutes a day to read and think; (2) using a journal, list the questions and insights God brings to mind. Consider what questions are being raised in the scriptures, what insights you are seeing, and record what you think God is saying to you. Share with your group what you have written.