

Legendary Heroes:

Joseph

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JOSEPH HAD A DREAM:

Genesis 37:3-11 "Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a [distinctive] multicolored tunic. His brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all of his brothers; so they hated him and could not [find it within themselves to] speak to him on friendly terms. Now Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him even more. He said to them, "Please listen to [the details of] this dream which I have dreamed; we [brothers] were binding sheaves [of grain stalks] in the field, and lo, my sheaf [suddenly] got up and stood upright and remained standing; and behold, your sheaves stood all around my sheaf and bowed down [in respect]." His brothers said to him, "Are you actually going to reign over us? Are you really going to rule and govern us as your subjects?" So they hated him even more for [telling them about] his dreams and for his [arrogant] words. But Joseph dreamed still another dream, and told it to his brothers [as well]. He said, "See here, I have again dreamed a dream, and lo, [this time I saw] eleven stars and the sun and the moon bowed down [in respect] to me!" He told it to his father as well as to his brothers; but his father rebuked him and said to him [in disbelief], "What is [the meaning of] this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow down to the ground [in respect] before you?" Joseph's brothers were envious and jealous of him, but his father kept the words [of Joseph] in mind [wondering about their meaning]."

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM JOSEPH'S STORY:

1. **LIVE THE DREAM, EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.**
 - 1.1. **Lead in slave's clothing** - Joseph did that in Potiphar's house. We have to do that too. We have to live the dream even when we can't see it.
 - 1.2. **Work while in Egypt** – Joseph wasn't where he wanted to be, he wasn't in God's promise land, he was in Egypt. If we want to be all God wants us to be, we have to learn to work in "Egypt". When we're in those places we'd rather not be and doing those things we'd rather not do, we need to still be faithful to God's will.
 - 1.3. **Succeed in Potiphar's house** – People might try to use your dream for their own gain, but don't worry about them, don't stop dreaming.

2. RESIST TEMPTATIONS.

- 2.1. Stay busy in the master's house** - Temptation becomes overwhelming when we stop doing God's will. As soon as we stop doing what God wants us to do, temptation will start to overwhelm us.
- 2.2. Tell temptation the truth** – We should not fall for the lies temptation will tempt us with. Instead counter the lies with God's truth.
- 2.3. Consider the consequences of falling for temptation.**

3. LEARN TO SURVIVE SET BACKS.

- 3.1.** God was with Joseph in his set backs and He will be in yours. We can survive our setbacks because God is with us.
- 3.2.** Joseph was with God and continued to trust Him despite his circumstances. We should do the same.
- 3.3.** There will be setbacks, but don't allow them to steal God's dream for your life.

Sermon Discussion Guide

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

- 1. Do you believe that God has a dream for your life?
- 2. Do you sometimes doubt in the dreams God has for you because of difficult circumstances? What are some of the things that make you doubt in God's dream for your life?
- 3. What are the setbacks in your life that has tempted you to give up on God's dream for you?