Living the Dream:
The Life of Joseph

October 2, 2026

Living the Dream: The Life of Joseph

Part 1
October 25, 2026

> *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*
>
> *—Joseph, Genesis 50:20*

Do you know God’s dream for your life?

Do you know God has a dream for your life?

God’s Dream = Your Purpose

> *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*
>
> *—God, Jeremiah 1:5*

> *This is the account of Jacob’s family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine*

> *and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*
>
> *—Genesis 37:2-11*

In the Bible, when DREAMS are mentioned, they're a revelation from God.

Your Purpose is more than what you do (ie. a career, a hobby, a relationship).

DISCERNING GOD'S DREAM—YOUR PURPOSE

- Honors God.
- Brings you joy and significance.
- Blesses others.

> *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
>
> *—Paul, Ephesians 2:10*

God's dream for your life is not just for your life.

CHALLENGE

- Seek to discern God's Dream—His Purpose—for your life.
- Be open to how God might want you to be part of blessing the life a child in the Africa New Life ministry.

Small Group Questions

ICEBREAKERS

• When you were growing up, what did you dream of becoming or doing with your life? How does that compare with where you are today?

• Have you ever had an experience when you felt like you were doing exactly what you were created to do? What were you doing, and what made that experience so meaningful?

REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 27:1-11. Joseph received two dream from God that revealed something about his future. However, at 17, he seemed to think those dreams were all about his own greatness.

• What can we learn from Joseph about the difference between pursuing our own dreams versus pursuing God's dream (His purpose) for our lives?

2. Read Ephesians 2:10. In the message, we learned that God intentionally created each of us with a purpose.

• How does knowing that God created you on purpose and for a purpose change the way you view yourself, your abilities, and your everyday life?

3. One of the key points of the message was that our purpose is bigger than our profession, relationships, or circumstances.

• Why is it easy to confuse what we do with who God created us to be? How might understanding this distinction help us navigate transitions such as retirement, job loss, becoming an empty nester, or other major life changes?

4. The message identified three elements that intersect in helping discover God's purpose for our lives: (1) it honors God; (2) it brings us joy and significance; (3) and it blesses others.

• Which of these three comes most naturally to you?

• Which one do you tend to overlook? How might considering all three help you better discern God's purpose for your life?

5. One of the points of the message was: "God's dream for your life isn't just for your life."

• Why do you think we sometimes approach our relationship with God primarily in terms of what He can do for us rather than what He wants to do through us?
• How does this challenge our culture's emphasis on personal happiness, achievement, and success?

6. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. Think about the gifts, abilities, resources, experiences, and opportunities God has given you.
• What is one practical way you could use something God has entrusted to you to make a meaningful difference in someone else's life this week?