

THE DREAM

This 5-week series focuses on the life of Joseph, a man with an incredible servant heart. We pray your group is challenged and stretched as they unpack one of the greatest rags-to-riches stories of all time. Week 1.

CONNECT

Ask your group your choice of the following:

- What have been the most fun and least fun things about this week?
- What's the best YouTube clip you've ever watched?
- What room in your house do you like best and why?
- In one sentence, what's God's been teaching you lately?

INVOLVE

Have your group practice their encouragement skills in 140 characters or less by sending an encouraging SMS to someone to let them know they are appreciated. Then as a group, ask everyone to pray for the person they SMS'd.

DISCUSS

Have the group read Genesis 37 out loud.

NEW CHRISTIANS

- Have you ever had a strange dream? What was it? Do you think dreams can actually carry secret meanings like Joseph's did? If so, how can we tell the difference between the ones that do and the ones that don't?
- Which character in this story reminds you most of yourself? Why? What can you learn from their involvement in the story?
- Joseph's family seems like it was pretty dysfunctional (messed-up). Read back through the story and make a list of all the things that contributed to the issues. Have you ever experienced or witnessed any of these things before?
- How would you feel if your parents liked one of your brothers or sisters more than you? What other ways could Joseph's brothers have handled that situation?



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THE DREAM

ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you the most from this passage? What's one thing that's relevant to your Christian walk at the moment?
- Do you think Joseph did the right thing by sharing his dreams? Was he being arrogant or just being honest? How would you have handled the situation?
- If Joseph's dreams were from God, does that mean that it was God's plan that Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery? How does your answer affect your own relationship with God?
- Joseph's brothers were fueled by jealousy. Do you struggle with jealousy? What kinds of things spark jealousy in your life? How do you personally handle those situations – do you have a good response or a poor one? How can we handle jealousy better?
- Have you ever had someone you thought you could trust betray you? Have you been able to forgive the person, or are you still upset/hurt? (Leaders note: It might be helpful to pray here based on what people share.)

APPLY

Ask your group to commit to one thing they will do this week based on what they've learned

AND/OR

Challenge your group to send at least one more encouraging SMS to a different person sometime this week.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Create a helpful atmosphere before people arrive – put some music on, have a few snacks available, have something for people to do when they arrive.



THE SCANDAL

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CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions:

- Rate your week out of 10. Why did you give it that rating?
- When was the last time you did something for the first time?
- What is the greatest compliment you've ever received?
- Have you ever been grounded or put on detention for something you didn't do? What happened?

INVOLVE

Explain to your group that you are going to spend some time in prayer, but that you are going to focus on listening rather than talking. Start by inviting God to talk to you all and then spend some time in silence listening to God (you will know best how much time you can do this for with your group).

Once you are finished, invite your group to share anything they felt God saying and spend some time thanking God and praying for anything which may have come up.

Also allow some time to interact with any questions that might come up about listening to God.

DISCUSS

Ask for a couple of volunteers to read Genesis 39:1-20a out loud.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- How would you feel if you were Joseph, made a slave, stuck in a strange country, and then thrown into prison for something you didn't do?
- When was a time that something bad or unfair happened to you? How did you respond in that situation?
- How did Joseph respond to the things that happened to him? Do you think we should still serve other people even when they don't treat us well?
- Re-read verse Genesis 39:5. How did God use Joseph while he was in Potiphar's house? Do you think that God can use you to help others?



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THE SCANDAL

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you in this story?
- How do you feel about the statement in verse 2 that “the LORD was with Joseph,” when he had just been bought as a slave and was about to be unjustly thrown in prison? Do you think God was with him in all of those situations or just when things were going well?
- For Joseph, serving those around him mustn’t have been easy after all the times he had been wronged. What kinds of things have you experienced that made it hard to feel like serving others?
- What can you learn from how Joseph responded to the tough circumstances he had to go through?
- Can you think of any situations in your life where you have avoided serving someone because you didn’t like the way they treated you? Do you think you should have responded differently? How?

APPLY

Ask your group to commit to one thing they will do this week based on what they’ve learned

OR

Get each group member to choose and share one situation where they will serve this week even though they don’t feel like it.

LEADER’S NOTES

- Are there any other young people in your church who you’d like to see join the group? Ask some group members to invite them during the week.
- Is anyone missing from your group tonight? Don’t forget to ask for volunteers to follow them up!



THE PRISONER

This 5-week series focuses on the life of Joseph, a man with an incredible servant heart. We pray your group is challenged and stretched as they unpack one of the greatest rags-to-riches stories of all time. Week 3.

CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- Do a simple mime that represents what kind of day you've just had. See if your fellow group members can work out what your mime means!
- If you could become a superhero, what would you call yourself and what super power would you like to have? Who would be your super villain?
- How have you served someone this week?

INVOLVE

Each take a turn at encouraging one other person in the room – stating where you see God at work in and through their life.

DISCUSS

Read Genesis 39:21-40:23

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you from this story?
- Joseph has just been put in prison for something he didn't do. Put yourself in his shoes. If the warden asked you to take on the management and care of everyone in the prison how do you think you'd react? Do you think you'd do it?
- Have a look at 40:6-7. Joseph noticed that the cupbearer and baker were sad and took the time to ask them what was wrong. Do you think you are good at noticing when people are upset or not themselves? How often do you respond by showing an interest or being available to talk? Would you ever take the time to listen to and care for someone who you don't know? What about someone you don't like?
- In verse 8 Joseph uses his words to point people towards God. Can you think of a time when you have used your words to give God credit for something or where you have spoken about his power in ordinary conversation? Have you ever done this when you are around not-yet-Christians? What happened?
- What's one word you would use to describe Joseph's attitude? To what extent do you see this quality at work in your own life?



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THE PRISONER

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out the most for you from this passage?
- Joseph's interpretations of the dreams turned out to be absolutely accurate. Do you think he knew for certain that he was hearing from God correctly? Why?
- Have you ever avoided speaking out what you feel God is saying for fear that you didn't hear him correctly? What do you think God would feel towards us if we spoke out what we felt he wanted us to but got it wrong?
- Re-read 40:20-23. Sometimes weird stuff happens and we wonder what God is thinking. Can you think of a time in your life when you've been baffled by what God is doing? How did it affect your attitude? What's one aspect of Joseph's attitude that you'd like to have more of?
- In verse 8, and repeatedly throughout Joseph's life, we see Joseph serving and pointing people to God. Do you think not-yet-Christians are more likely to pay attention to our words about God if we have served them? Why? Should this be the main reason why we serve?

APPLY

What is ONE thing I can do differently this week based on what I've learned?

OR

Put yourself out there for God this week. In your every-day conversation with a not-yet-Christian, refer to God's goodness or give credit to God for something. The not-yet-Christian could be anyone from a close friend to the check-out chick at your supermarket.

Start your week by praying that God will open up opportunities.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Include prayer as a part of your night. Maybe ask someone to open and someone else to close in prayer?
- Don't forget to set aside some time to ENJOY – have supper, play a game, or just chill.



THE PROPHET

This 5-week series focuses on the life of Joseph, a man with an incredible servant heart. We pray your group is challenged and stretched as they unpack one of the greatest rags-to-riches stories of all time. Week 4.

CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- What is the best thing that has happened to you this week?
- If you were going to have a food fight, what type of food would you use?
- What is a good Bible verse you have read recently?
- Who is your hero? Why?
- What is your favourite time of the day? Why?

INVOLVE

Invite each member of your group to share a story of how they have seen God working in and through their own life or through someone else's life whether it is in a big or small way. Think of a story you can share also in case you need to get things kick-started.

After the stories have been shared spend some time thanking God for all the things he is doing.

DISCUSS

Ask for a couple of volunteers to read through Genesis 41.

If you think the story is a bit too long to hold the attention of your group try recounting the story while using something visual and fun like pictures of the story in Lego from www.thebricktestament.com.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- Imagine you were Joseph and had just been pulled from prison to appear before an extremely powerful and ruthless man. How do you think you'd feel?
- Re-read Genesis 41:31-35. Joseph responds in the situation by not only interpreting Pharaoh's dreams but he even then tells Pharaoh what he thinks he should do! Why do you think Joseph was so bold? Was Joseph just unique, or does God help everyone to have that same level of boldness?



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THE PROPHET

- If you had the ability to interpret others dreams, how would you use that gift? How many times does Joseph refer to God's action in his response to Pharaoh (verses 16 to 32)? What are some ways that you can honour God for your abilities and the things he gives you?
- What is a situation in your life at the moment that seems scary? Spend some time praying for each other for God's help in those situations.

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out the most for you from this passage?
- It now seems like everything has turned out for the best with Joseph second in command over Egypt and feeding starving nations all over the world. Do you think God made all the bad stuff to happen in order to bring Joseph to this place?
- What does the way Joseph names his sons in verses 51 & 52 tell you about how Joseph sees God's involvement in his life?
- If you had the ability to interpret others dreams how would you use that gift? Re-read Genesis 41:16. What are some ways that you can honour God for your abilities and the things he gives you?
- In verse 38 even Pharaoh recognises God's Spirit in Joseph. In what ways would you like others to see God in you?
- In this chapter Joseph doesn't just interpret Pharaoh's dreams, but without being asked he boldly tells Pharaoh what he thinks he should do with this new information! Have you ever spoken up for God even when you felt it was a risk? What happened? What sorts of things prevent you from speaking up?

APPLY

What is ONE thing I can do differently this week based on what I've learned?

OR

Challenge your group to try and thank God for the gifts and the opportunities he has given them every time they use their abilities to serve someone else this week.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Is anyone missing from your group tonight? Don't forget to ask for volunteers to follow them up.
- Are you developing leaders within your group? Check out the LIFE leadership handbook for some simple ideas on how to start.



THE DESTINY

This 5-week series focuses on the life of Joseph, a man with an incredible servant heart. We pray your group is challenged and stretched as they unpack one of the greatest rags-to-riches stories of all time. Week 5.

CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- So apparently life is like a box of chocolates. What kind of chocolate has your life been lately, and why?
- What's the funniest Facebook page name you've seen lately?
- What's something you've really enjoyed doing in the past fortnight?
- What's something that has surprised you lately?

INVOLVE

Lob a 'serve grenade' towards your hosts by finding something your group can do to be a blessing. If you meet in a home, perhaps you can ask the host to let your group wash the dishes this evening - not just their own, but for the whole family! Or if you meet at church, maybe your group can tidy up the 'messy cupboard' (every church has one!) or write an encouraging note/sign to stick on the Corp Officer's door.

If there's genuinely nothing you can do at your group meeting place, spend 15 minutes planning something you could do to serve together on Sunday at church. Maybe as a group you can commit to helping with set-up or pack-up, welcoming people when they arrive or something similar.

DISCUSS

Read Genesis 42:1-29 out loud.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- Imagine someone who had betrayed you in the past has now arrived asking for your help. How do you think you'd feel? How would you respond? Would your response be similar or different to Joseph's? How do you think God would want us to respond?
- Through Joseph's life, we see how God used Joseph being sold into slavery to actually help the people who sold him in the first place. Do you think that's fair? What do you think Joseph's brothers learned about God through the whole experience?
- Joseph repays his brothers' betrayal with generosity by returning their payment. In what ways does this reflect what Jesus has done for us? Can you think of an occasion in your life right now where you



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THE DESTINY

could show generosity to someone who has wronged you? How do you think Joseph reached a point where he could show this kind of undeserved kindness?

- What character trait from Joseph's life (across the whole 5 week series) do you want to develop more in your own life?

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you the most from this passage? What's one thing that's relevant to your Christian walk at the moment?
- What do you think Joseph was trying to achieve through the way he treated his brothers when they first arrived? What do you think motivated his decisions?
- It's obvious that Joseph's brothers felt guilty about what they did for a long time (v21). What kind of impact do you think that kind of guilt has on someone's everyday life? How could it affect their attitudes, their decisions, and their health?
- In v6 we see the fulfillment of Joseph's dream from years before. Does that mean that everything that happened in Joseph's life was part of God's plan for him?
- Throughout Joseph's life, it's obvious that his faith in God stayed strong. How do you think Joseph stayed spiritually healthy?

APPLY

What is ONE thing I can do differently this week based on what I've learned?

OR

Challenge your group to try and thank God for the gifts and the opportunities he has given them every time they use their abilities to serve someone else this week.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Try to block out some time in your calendar this week to pray for each of the members of your group.

