

Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday while diving deeper into God's word.

Life Group Study Guide

- 1. Are you a dreamer? Do you remember your dreams or forget them? Have you ever had a recurring dream?*
- 2. If you could only share one idea from Sunday's message, what would it be and why?*
- 3. On Sunday Jason made the point that, "focusing on your dream is a great way to lose God's dream." What do you think this means? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Have you ever seen this take place in your, or someone else's, life?*
- 4. Romans 8:28 can be a challenging verse. In the midst of trials it can be difficult to find anything good about our situation. Often times we become exceedingly frustrated with our circumstances. This frustration comes from the tension of our desire for current/temporary well-being versus God's desire for our eternal well-being.*

- Read through the following verses and jot down any insights, questions or key observations. Galatians 1:11-24.*
- From these verses what do we learn about Paul's life before he became a follower of Christ?*
- What was Paul's purpose for his life? What was God's purpose for Paul?*
- What skills, talents, and resources did God use from Paul's former life to make him into such a great apostle?*
- How does this section of scripture affect your view of temporary versus eternal well-being?*

Digging Deeper

- 1. Do you know what your specific purpose is? Has it changed throughout your life? How do you hear from God to find your specific purpose?*
- 2. Often times we get distracted from our purpose in life. Is there anything in your life that is pulling you away from your purpose?*

LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

October 2, 2016 | Genesis 37:1-36

"DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU WERE BORN?"

Genesis 37:1-4 (ESV) *Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.*

YOUR BACKGROUND IS NEVER AN OBSTACLE TO GOD FULFILLING HIS PURPOSE IN YOU.

Genesis 37:5-11 (ESV) *⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. ⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?" ¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.*

WE DON'T DISCOVER GOD'S WILL. GOD'S WILL DISCOVERS US.

Genesis 37:12-13,18-24 (ESV) *Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." ¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." ²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²² And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father...*

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. ²⁴ And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

FOCUSING ON YOUR DREAM IS A GREAT WAY TO LOSE GOD'S DREAM

Genesis 37:25-36 (ESV) *Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. ²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes ³⁰ and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" ³¹ Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³² And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³ And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." ³⁴ Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.*

GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE CAN NEVER BE DISCOVERED UNTIL YOU GET HONEST ABOUT YOUR SIN.

Genesis 37:36 (ESV) *³⁶ Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.*

Romans 8:28 (NIV) *God works all things together for the good of those who love him.*

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MY LIFE IS OFTEN DISCOVERED AS HE LEADS ME THROUGH PAINFUL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THERE IS NO ENEMY TOO GREAT THAT GOD CANNOT OVERCOME TO ACHIEVE HIS PURPOSE IN MY LIFE.