

# DAVE SMITH

## Living the Dream

**Focus** God has a dream for your life that is far greater than you can imagine. He not only wants you to dream that dream but live the dream—both for your good and for His glory. We must ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His dream for our lives because we need to see it before we can enter into it. Oftentimes, we encounter a season of life where we must transition to entirely live the dream. When this happens, we need to exercise faith and patience!

**Fun** Do you have a dream vacation spot? Share with the group.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Acts 7:9–10

### 1. Preparation

Preparation is needed to live the dream. It is a process, and there is often a delay—a time lag between the conception and the fulfillment of a vision. Once we have God's dream in our lives, we often enter a season of preparation for that dream. Joseph experienced three different seasons before fully realizing God's dream for him (Genesis 37–50). God uses good and bad things to prepare us for His purposes.

#### a. Forgiveness Test

We must forgive those who have offended us. Joseph exercised grace and forgave His brothers. When we walk in forgiveness, our dreams are unhindered.

#### b. Faithfulness Test

We must be faithful to God and run from any temptation. Joseph ran from Mrs. Potiphar's advances. When a trap threatens to ensnare us, we must be ready to run.

c. **Fruitfulness Test**

We must learn to be fruitful when times are tough. Joseph's responsibilities in running the prison prepared him for his role as Pharaoh's administrator. We need to be fruitful wherever we are in life, and God will bless us.

**2. Promotion**

The position of administrator required Joseph to use the gifts God gave him. However, he was not promoted for his gifts alone but for having a vision, making a plan, demonstrating hard work, and being diligent. God wants to promote His people. He wants to promote you!

**3. Provision for Purpose**

As we grow in the Lord, He refines our motivation and brings clarity to our purpose. To extend God's kingdom, He gives us influence and affluence. He plans for us to prosper! This is not for our benefit alone but for the benefit of His kingdom.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Discuss ideas for encouraging fellowship beyond your regular meeting date, such as a ladies' café brunch, a men's coffee shop get-together, or a group gathering at a local restaurant to mark the end of a semester.

**Discuss**

1. When we honor God, He allows us to prosper. In what way did God bless Joseph while he was in prison? Read Genesis 39:23.
2. Read Acts 7:10. Identify two gifts God gave Joseph to help him govern Egypt well? How can God use these same gifts in us?
3. Joseph was a man who embraced God's dream for his life. Explain what God's purpose and plan was for Joseph. (Genesis 45:5, 50:20)
4. List some simple ways we can show grace to others. Example: Feed the hungry.
5. Has God been speaking to you about a dream He has for you? If you feel comfortable, share it with the group.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- God has a dream for us.
- We should live the dream for His glory.
- The Holy Spirit will reveal His dream to us.
- We must see the dream before entering into it.
- Our dream may be delayed for a season.
- Patience and faith are important to realizing our dream.

**Prayer** Lord, I want to live the dream You have for me. Reveal that dream through Your Holy Spirit. Give me the faith, patience, and courage to enter into it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Identify someone from your group who will be able to fill in for you when necessary. Being proactive can save you time and effort in the days ahead!