

LABELS

DREAM A LITTLE DREAM

Do you dream regularly?

Do you remember your dreams?

What is a funny dream you've had?

Have you ever had a dream that you felt God was trying to tell you something?
If so, share it with the group.

Some dreams come to us while we sleep and some “dreams” we have when we are awake, like a vision, daydream, or aspiration. Let’s look at a young man who had a night dream that became a vision he took to heart for his future.

Genesis 37:2-11— At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was a son born to him in his old age, and he made a long-sleeved robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him.

5 Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: 7 There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.”

8 “Are you really going to reign over us?” his brothers asked him. “Are you really going to rule us?” So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. “Look,” he said, “I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

10 He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. “What kind of dream is this that you have had?” he said. “Am I and your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the ground before you?” 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

How well did Joseph get along with his brothers?

How did they feel toward Joseph?

How does your relationship with your own siblings compare?

How do you feel when your parents give a brother or sister a special gift but do not give you something?

What were some of the things that brought that feeling on?

Did you ever have something good happen to you that you couldn't wait to share with someone but they reacted in a negative way?

Even though Joseph's father loved him and showered him with gifts, he spoke out against Joseph's dream. Have you ever had a dream or a hope that even your parents weren't supportive of?

How did that feel?

What would have been some of the "labels" his brothers probably called him?

What good did Joseph's family ever think he would be?

Does the voices of your past hold back your dreams?

What are some of the "labels" that others have placed on you?

Read what the Bible says about who you are:

Psalm 139:13 —For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 — Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 Peter 2:9 — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Galatians 4:7 — So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

According to Scripture, what labels does God place on you?

THE FAVOR OF GOD

Joseph's brothers were so overcome by their jealousy, they carried out a plot to throw him in a pit. When a group of traders came by, they sold their brother to them. He was taken from his home and family to become a slave in Egypt.

Genesis 39:2-5— The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he did successful, 4 Joseph found favor with his master and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority. 5 From the time that he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph. The Lord's blessing was on all that he owned, in his house and in his fields.

What happened to Joseph?

Are the labels of your past stronger than the touch of God on you?

Are you prone to think the difficulties you are going through are greater than God's ability to rescue and bless you?

When have you seen success in your life?

Do you mostly focus on your "successes" or on your "labels?"

Who can your forgiveness set free?

God has a great future in store for you. Don't listen to what the world says about you.

PRAYER TIME

- Thank God for His favor on your life. And thank Him for the freedom from what others think of you.
- Ask God to help you put away the labels that have applied to you in the past.
- Ask God for his favor upon your life as you remain faithful to Him.