



Chapter-By-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture:	Genesis 37	Title:	What's Become of Your Dreams?
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Summary of Chapter:	In this chapter, sibling rivalry ensues between Joseph and his brothers. The more he shares his dreams with his brothers, the more they respond in hate. Nobody believes in Joseph's dreams, not even his father! When they got a chance to, the brothers plotted to get rid of Joseph. Finally, Joseph is sold as a slave to Egypt.		
Key Verses (NLT):	How does it speak to me?		
<i>19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."</i>	Joseph's dreams were destroyed by his brothers with their united effort to dispose of him. How could it be so easy to toss a God-given dream aside? Yet we know that God was weaving a story and taking Joseph through a refining process. The delays and detours that God put Joseph through was not to destroy his dream, but to develop Joseph so that he had what it takes to carry out that dream. I remember when I was asked to "dream" for the ministry when the leadership role got handed over to me. In my heart, I had many desires and plans that I wanted very much to come to pass. Yet I also quickly learned of the many obstacles ahead. I wrestled with God and asked Him, "If these are Your dreams for the ministry, then why is it so difficult to bring to pass? Why is there so much uncertainty, mess, and resistance?" I'm still in the midst of this process, and after months of hard work there are only small steps of progress. Nevertheless, there is progress. I wonder if you have experienced a dream (a hope, desire, or plan) that got tossed away too abruptly? If you are experiencing what feels like delay or denial to the dreams that God laid upon your heart, know that God knows what He's doing. He's building and refining you in this time as you wait for the fulfilment of your dream. Nothing is ever wasted in God's hands. May I encourage you, brothers and sisters, dare to dream, and dream big for God. He is more than able to carry us through.		
APPLICATION QUESTIONS:			
Adult:	Are you discouraged and feel like giving up on a dream that God has laid upon your heart? Ask the Lord for fresh perspective on the situation, and trust that He is working all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His plan!		
Youth:	Do you discredit your dreams and desires for the Lord because you are young, or don't have enough skills, experience and resources? Ask God for courage to never give up on that dream, and for the patience and resilience to stay the course while He develops in you what He will fulfill through you!		
Child:	Share with your family, what would you like to do when you grow up? Or draw who do you think you will become. Why? (Parents to read: https://bit.ly/36pQiyH Pray over your child today that he will walk in God's destiny for him.)		
PRAYER:			
Praying Scripture:	Father, we hold on to Your word in Romans 8:28 that says You work all things together for the good of those who love You and are called according to Your plan. We ask that You bring Your plan into fulfilment in us and help us not to give up too early or too easily in times of difficulty. Grant us tenacity as we set our hearts once again on doing what You've called us to do.		
Thanksgiving Prayer:	We thank You for the opportunities to do good in this world. Thank you for every blessing that You have poured out in our lives.		
Intercessory Prayer:	Father, we stand in the gap now for those who are experiencing the loss of their dreams due to reasons that were beyond their control. For any heartbreak or grief that they feel, be close to them just as Your word says in Psalm 34:18 that You are close to the brokenhearted.		
Salvation Prayer:	We continue to lift up our pre-believing friends and relatives into Your loving hands. Reveal Yourself to them in ways that they can see and understand. All this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.		

