



Genesis 37:5–11 (ESV)

Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 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.” 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.

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.” 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?” And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

For your dreams to come true, you must first dream. What are your dreams? What are your aspirations? What must we do to make our dreams become our reality?

[Author Note: I used a personal illustration about dreams that I had that came true. Use a personal story to draw their interest right from the start of your lesson.]

I do not mean to brag, but I am totally living my dream. When I was a little boy, when someone would ask me what I wanted to do, my answer was not a police officer or a fireman. I never had dreams to be the president or a TV star, or, in President Trump’s case, both.

When people would ask me what I wanted to do, my answer was always to be a pastor.

Since I was in jr. high school, I have liked the exact same girl. In fact, had you asked me in the 8th grade, “Who do you want to marry?” my answer would have been, without question, my wife, Cara.

My favorite city in the entire world is not NYC, Paris, LA, Rome, or London, but rather Chicago, Illinois.

Today, God has made my dreams come true. I get to be a youth pastor to amazing students, a husband to the girl of my dreams, and all in my favorite place in the world.

Now, I do not tell you this to brag about my dreams, but to brag about our God. You see, when we choose to dream God’s dreams, God can make His dream your reality.

In Genesis 37, we find Joseph, the favorite son of 12 brothers to his father, Jacob. Jacob loved Joseph so much that he gave a coat of many colors to Joseph, and Joseph alone.

This caused the other 11 brothers become very angry at their brother Joseph. However, that didn’t stop Joseph from sharing his dreams. Now, in Joseph’s case, these were literal dreams that God had given him.

The first dream that Joseph shared was found in verse 6:

“Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 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.”

This ticked off the brothers even more! To the point where they basically told Joseph, “Listen, Pal, we don’t want to hear any more about these crazy dreams.”

Then, Joseph had another dream. Again, he told it to his brothers: *“Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”*

This time, even his father rebuked him. Basically, he told his son to be quiet and quit bringing these dreams up.

Dreams are not a bad thing. In fact, if done God’s way, they can be an incredible driving force in your life. In fact, there are a few realities we must face to see our dreams come true.

Reality #1: To see your dreams come true, you must first DREAM.

In Genesis 37, we found Joseph being given two very specific dreams. In the Bible, we find that one of the ways God chose to communicate with His people was through literal dreams. God gave Joseph two dreams about how one day he would rule over his family.

Today, God often works in His people through the power and direction of the Bible. He shapes our lives and our future by the truths found in the Word of God.

God has a specific dream that He wants you to dream. He has a plan that He wants you to follow. He has a future that He wants you to experience. But you must first dream. I’m not telling you to take a nap, have a dream, and then do whatever your dream was because, come on, that could get dangerous.

[**Author Note:** I used a personal illustration about a weird dream that I had. Use a story about one of your own weird dreams.]

I once had a dream that I was a survivalist on a TV show, like Bear Grylls. It’s probably in my best interest to not try to survive a week in the Sahara.

God wants to give you a specific dream, a specific goal in your life, that He wants you to chase after.

Maybe that dream is to be a leader in your youth group.
Maybe it’s to pursue full-time ministry.
Maybe it’s to start a Bible club at school.
Maybe it’s to go into law and fight for religious freedom or social justice.
Maybe it’s to go into politics and be a biblical leader.
Maybe it’s to join a team and point others to Jesus.

God has a dream, but He is waiting for you to dream it. One of the greatest lies that Satan tells is that if you pursue God’s dream, you will be miserable.

The Bible says that God wants to “give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). He wants you to be happy. And in fact, the happiest place to be is in the center of God’s will.

But to see your dreams become a reality, you must face reality. And the first reality is that you must dream.

Reality 2: To see your dreams come true, you must DWELL on your DREAMS.

The events in Genesis 37 would have never taken place if Joseph hadn't chosen to dwell upon his dreams. It wasn't good enough to just *have* the dreams. He had to choose to dwell on them, to let them fester, to let them build up inside of him.

Today, I want to encourage you to dream. I want to encourage you to dream big. Maybe that dream is about your future career. Maybe it's to use a talent that God has given you on a bigger stage.

Perhaps your dream is to help the homeless.
Maybe it's to bring unity to a divided country.
Maybe it's to bring life to a dying church.
Or to bring hope to a hopeless community.

Maybe God has put a dream inside of you to teach, or to play an instrument, or to pursue a ministry, or to start a club, or to join a team. Don't let those dreams die, but rather dwell on those dreams. Think about them. Pursue them.

In 1924, Gutzon Borglum announced to the world that “history would march along the skyline.” It was his dream to create one of the largest and most prolific sculptures of all time. Gazing at the Black Hills in South Dakota, this was his dream: to sculpt a sculpture to remember the great history of this country.

400,000 tons of outer rock were removed from the mountain as the faces of President Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Roosevelt began to emerge. In March of 1941, he passed away. In October on 1941, the project was complete. His dream had come true. You can visit it today: Mt. Rushmore.

His dream came true because he chose to dwell on it. He allowed his dream to shape who he was.