

**SERIES TITLE:** Living in God's Story

**PART THREE:** WHEN YOUR DREAM DIES

**TEXT:** GENESIS 37

**INTRODUCTION.**

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

**DISCUSSION.**

When movies, songs, celebrities, etc. say things like "follow your dreams," what does that mean? How could it be helpful and how could it be detrimental?

**EXAMINATION.**

Vv.1-11

- If you didn't know anything else about Joseph except from these verses, how would you describe him?
- Why would Jacob play favorites given his own family history?
- What evidence is there, if any, that Joseph's dreams are from God?
- Why might God give Joseph such dreams at this time?

Vv.12-36

- From these verses, what do we learn about the character of each of the following: Reuben; Judah; Jacob?
- What emotions do you imagine Joseph experienced through all this?
- If you were Joseph at this point, would you be despairing of your dreams from God, or drawing comfort from them? Why?
- Discuss the significance of the word "meanwhile" to the immediate storyline, and to the overall history of Israel.

**APPLICATION.**

- How is it possible to say that “with God, there is always a meanwhile”?
- Can you give an example in your own life when God had a “meanwhile” that you knew nothing about?
- What confidence can you have that someone else’s sin will not destroy God’s purpose for you?
- What kind of penalty is there for dream-killers like Joseph’s brothers tried to be?
- How can you determine what is God’s dream for you and what is merely your own human desire?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?