REJECTION PRECEDES VICTORY

God's desire is to redeem you even if the journey is painful. Victory is yours!

KEY POINTS

- 'Dreamers' have a vision or purpose that is greater than themselves.
- And you may know someone (or you may be that person) who has gone through trials before seeing their dream come true.
- Do you have a dream for yourself? For your family? Your community? Your church? Your city? Your country? Our world?
- God gave Joseph a BIG DREAM and had big plans for him. Genesis 37:5 tells us that Joseph shared his dream with his brothers (who 'strongly disliked' him): "Listen to this dream I had: [7] We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it" (NIV).
- Joseph's journey to his dream included the following:
  -being hated even more by his brothers
  -being sold to Egypt as a slave by his own brothers
  -being falsely accused of sexually assaulting Potiphar's wife
  -being thrown in prison.
- Joseph's experience could have caused doubt and discouragement because the events leading up to the fulfillment of his dream could seem to be opposing it. Promises and trials were fighting against one another.
- But Scripture encourages us: "…in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28 NIV).
- Perhaps we should embrace rejection and trials more than we tend to, because they can produce perseverance and maturity (James 1:2 4).
- Could it be that rejection may need to happen in order for us to receive our victory – our dream?
- Joseph was thrown in a pit then sold by his brothers… his victory is getting closer. How would have Joseph made his way to Egypt without being sold as a slave?
- How would Joseph have become the manager of all those held in the prison, if he hadn't been falsely accused of trying to sleep with Potiphar's wife?
- How would Joseph have networked with Pharaoh's top officials if he hadn't been in the prison to interpret their dreams? Say YES to rejection!
- Joseph went from prisoner to becoming Pharaoh's dream-interpreter, to being in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Rejection preceded victory.
- Joseph's brothers also experienced rejection in various ways. Jacob (Israel) made it obvious that Joseph was the favourite son. (Genesis 37:3-4).
- They may have lost sight of God's love and value for their lives, which may have fueled them to react in hate rather than respond in love.
- How are we like Joseph and how are we like Joseph's brothers?

KEY SCRIPTURES: Genesis 37-48, 37:5, 45: 4-9; Jeremiah 29:11-13; John 3:16; James 1:2-4

- Like Joseph, we have a purpose to love and serve others. Like Joseph, when trials come our way we should not give up, because our victory is coming.
- Like Joseph's brothers, we may be challenged with feelings of jealousy, hate, anger, fear, and anxiety because our souls are crying out for love and security.
- God desires and has plans to prosper us (Jeremiah 29:11-13). God loved Joseph's brothers so much that though they mocked and hated Joseph and his God-given dream, God was still orchestrating a plan to redeem them from the famine to come. That's love.
- Today's definition of a "dream" includes "a cherished aspiration, ambition, or ideal" (lexicon.com). In that sense, this is God's 'dream': "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).
- In Isaiah 53, we are given a glimpse of the future Messiah's journey of rejection, extreme pain, humility, and submission.
- Jesus foreknew all the details leading to His ultimate purpose. He saw the ridicule, false accusations, betrayal, crown of thorns. He saw the whips and beatings. He saw the mockery. He saw nails hammered into HIs hands and feet. He saw the blood. He saw death. He saw you. He saw me.
- And He said, "It is finished" (John19:30). He saw sweet victory!
- Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins. He was buried and rose again to give us eternal life. This was the will of God.
- It had to happen – not to condemn us, but for Jesus to go before us and give us eternal life.
- Even if the journey is painful, victory is yours!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share examples from scripture and personal experience of someone who gave up on a dream because of negative circumstances. What were the results?
2. Based on scripture/experience, how we respond when God gives us a dream?
3. How does one know whether a 'dream' is just a personal desire or if it is from God? (How have you recognized God-given dreams?)

Prayer Time

Lord, please let me be conscious of Your love and security, and be assured of victory in Your name.

1. **Start-up:** What is your usual first response when something happens to derail a desired plan? How often is it giving thanks?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline