

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Where Dreams May Lead
Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

You can access the song **To Dream the Impossible Dream** on YouTube and other Internet sources both in lyrical form or in musical form. You may want to use it creatively in either the Gathering Time or the Worship Time to set the stage for the study.

For the Gathering Time, enlist three readers (possible child, youth and adult) to read the scriptures given. These are available to copy at the end of the Worship Time.

Bible Study Leader:

©2001-2010, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. www.homechurchonline.com
Where Dreams May Lead – Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

Copy the outline given at the end of the Worship session on a whiteboard, a large piece of paper or provide copies for each participant. Use it to guide the study.

Worship Time Leader:

See Gathering Time suggestions.

Music Sources:

Here I am to Worship, *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008) #130; CCLI #3266032

Bless His Holy Name, *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008), # 151; CCLI #17566

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008), #161; CCLI #5513848 or 4427375

I Gave My Life for Thee, *The Worship Hymnal*, (2008), #174; CCLI 85426

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Where Dreams May Lead

Focal Text

Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Background Text

Genesis 37

Main Idea

Joseph's dreams and his family's response to them illustrate that our expressions of our hopes and dreams may bring conflict and difficulty, especially when not expressed carefully.

Question to Explore

What will you do with your dreams?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to describe how the sources of Joseph's difficulties shed light on family and interpersonal relationships today.

Gathering together:

Sing **Bless His Holy Name** and/or **Here I am to Worship**.

First thoughts:

Enlist three readers ahead of time to read the following Scriptures. Use a child to read Reading 1; a youth to read Reading 2 and an adult to read Reading 3 if that is appropriate for your group.

Reading 1

Show me your ways, O Lord,
Teach me your paths;

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
For you are God my Saviour,
And my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Reading 2

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to an idol
Or swear by what is false.
He will receive blessing from the Lord
And vindication from God his Savior. (Psalm 24:3-5)

Reading 3

How great is your goodness,
Which you have stored up for those who fear you,
Which you bestow in the sight of men
On those who take refuge in you.
In the shelter of your presence you hide them
From the intrigues of men. (Psalm 31: 19-20)

Closing the Gathering Time:

The scriptures which have been read are God's promises. Throughout Joseph's life we will see how God directed and protected him. In difficult times, Joseph depended on God. He maintained, "clean hands and a pure heart". He did not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what was false. Today we will consider Joseph's dreams and how they impacted his family and his own life and even the life of the nation of Egypt. We will consider our own "dreams and plans" and desire to commit those to the Lord so that we may know the "goodness which you have stored up for those who fear you."

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Where Dreams May Lead

Focal Text

Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Background Text

Genesis 37

Main Idea

Joseph’s dreams and his family’s response to them illustrate that our expressions of our hopes and dreams may bring conflict and difficulty, especially when not expressed carefully.

Question to Explore

What will you do with your dreams?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to describe how the sources of Joseph’s difficulties shed light on family and interpersonal relationships today.

Introduction to your personal study:

This familiar story has been told over and over and has even been made into entertainment with the musical **Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** by well-known song writer, Andrew Lloyd Webber. It is important that we not let it become trivialized or that in the midst of the many violent stories to which we are exposed today, we lose the importance of this story as one of the great demonstrations of God’s care and provision for His people.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

This passage follows the account of Jacob’s return to the land of his father, Isaac. Because Jacob had tricked his older brother, Esau out of his birth-right, Esau planned to get his revenge (Genesis 27:41). When Rachael heard of his plans, she convinced Isaac to send Jacob to her family to choose his wife. Jacob spent several years with Rachael’s family during which time God taught him many lessons. Upon his return and reconciliation with Esau, God called him to go to Bethel where God Almighty, met him, blessed him, and renamed him “Israel” (Genesis 35: 9-10). Following the birth of his twelfth son, Jacob’s beloved Rachael died (Genesis 35:18-19). The chapter ends with the record of his father Isaac’s death (Genesis 35:29). The account of Esau and his descendents, the Edomites, is told in Genesis 36. Then the focus returns to Jacob’s family, most specifically to the interactions of his twelve sons.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Favouritism Brings Trouble (Genesis 37:1-4)

As Genesis 37 begins, we are once again confronted with a realistic picture of these Biblical characters, warts and all. Joseph, the 17 year old favourite, comes tattling to Jacob about his half-brothers (Genesis 37:2). Jacob’s partiality to Joseph was not so subtly exhibited. Jacob, who had been his mother’s favourite (Genesis 25:28), had a “richly ornamented robe” made for Joseph (37:3). What a 17 year old shepherd needed with such an outfit is questionable. It was apparently a long sleeved over-gown; the same word describes the luxurious gowns worn by royal princesses in 2 Samuel 13:18. It is described in the King James Version as “coat of many colours.” Bold and bright it shouted of Jacob’s favouritism. In any event, the robe that Jacob had made for Joseph only made his brothers hate him more (37:4).

Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take (Genesis 37:5-14)

It was in this frame of mind that the brothers were treated to Joseph’s rendition of his dream in which his brothers bowed down to him (5-8). Not taking the hint that his dream was less than enjoyable to them, Joseph couldn’t wait to share his second dream in which the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to him (9). Even his father was offended by this dream and rebuked Joseph (10). Seething with jealousy, the brothers go out to graze the flocks, while Jacob mulls over the dream (11). Apparently unaware of the depth of their dislike for Joseph, sometime later Jacob sent Joseph out to check on the brothers and report back to him (12-14). Joseph obediently complied (13).

Anger Erupts (Genesis 37:15-24)

An early glimpse into his tenacious character is seen in the effort Joseph put forth to track down his brothers (Genesis 37:14-17). When his brothers saw Joseph in the

distance, possibly because of his bright outfit, they decide to do away with that “dreamer” once and for all (18-20). His angry, jealous brothers wanted to kill Joseph and throw his body into a dry cistern or watering hole. But Reuben, the oldest brother, convinced them to throw him into the cistern and planned to rescue Joseph later (21-22).

The first thing his brothers did when Joseph arrived was strip him of his robe (23). Apparently Joseph chose to wear his expensive, fancy duds even to chase around in the wilderness. This was not exactly a mature attitude. The robe shouted Joseph’s arrogance and cut right to his brothers’ resentment, pain, and feelings of displacement in their father’s affections. Stripped of the offending robe, Joseph was then thrown into a dry cistern (24).

Capitalizing on Circumstances (Genesis 37: 25-28)

Apparently oblivious to Joseph’s cries of distress, the brothers sat down to eat when they saw a caravan approaching on its way to Egypt (25). Perhaps Judah was beginning to feel guilty. In any event, he suggested selling Joseph rather than killing him “after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood” (26-27). Not only did they get rid of the bragging, annoying brother, they made twenty shekels of silver, about 8 ounces (28).

Reaping the Consequences (Genesis 37:29-36)

Reuben somehow missed out on the sale to the Midianite merchants. When he checked on Joseph in the cistern, he immediately thought the worst and tore his clothes in anguish (29). Totally distraught he asked, “Where can I turn now?”(30). His reaction is just a preface to the depth of Jacob’s anguish when he hears of Joseph’s demise.

To cover their tracks, the brothers slaughtered a goat and dipped the hated ornamented robe in the blood (31). Then they took it to Jacob and asked him to look at it and see if it is “your son’s robe”(32). Jacob immediately recognized the robe and guessed that Joseph had been torn to pieces (33). In anguish, he ‘tore his own clothes, put on sack cloth and mourned for his son many days.” When his children tried to comfort him, he refused to be comforted (34-35).

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

This complicated passage indicates that God was at work in Joseph’s life when he was very young. His father sensed that this was a special young man, but his favouritism brought tragedy to the family.

Today’s lesson emphasizes the need for wise parental guidance. Encourage participants to think of how we can encourage our children’s (or other children in our realm of influence) to appropriately develop their talents and skills without causing

jealously within the family circle. Remember this family circle could include cousins as well as members of your church family.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Background Text

Genesis 37

Main Idea

Joseph's dreams and his family's response to them illustrate that our expressions of our hopes and dreams may bring conflict and difficulty, especially when not expressed carefully.

Questions to Explore

What will you do with your dreams?

Teaching Aim

To lead participants to describe how the sources of Joseph's difficulties shed light on family and interpersonal relationships today

Connect with Life:

Share with the participants: The words "dysfunctional family" may be recent descriptive terms, but the realities of family dysfunction have existed since the earliest families. The quarrel between Jacob and Esau impacted their lives for many years. It is not surprising that the same animosities existed in Jacob's own sons. Today's lesson can help us evaluate how favouritism and jealousy can impact our own family life. If it exists, we want, with God's help, to make changes to eradicate these destructive forces as soon as possible and as completely as possible.

We will also consider the place of hopes and aspirations or "dreams" which we may have and how these need to be guided and dedicated to God's service.

Guide the Study:

Use the following outline to guide the study as you lead it. You may choose to write these on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper—or you can make copies for each person from the multiple copies provided at the end of this session:

Genesis 37:1-4 Favouritism Brings Trouble

Genesis 37:5-14 Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take

Genesis 37:15-24 Anger Erupts

Genesis 37: 25-28 Capitalizing on Circumstances

Genesis 37:29-36 Reaping the Consequences

Briefly review Jacob's story as given in the background material.

1. Favouritism Brings Trouble (Genesis 37:1-4)

Have someone read the above passage.

Ask someone to comment on Joseph's tattling in verse 2.

Question: How do we generally react to a tattler?

Add: How might Jacob have helped Joseph to see why his actions were unacceptable?

Have someone read Genesis 25:28 and comment that Jacob had been his mother's favourite.

Say: Now Jacob shows favouritism toward Joseph.

Seek a response: Why did he favour Joseph so much (verse 3)?

Ask: Is that a fairly normal human reaction?

Reread Genesis 37:3.

Present this question: Why would Joseph need such a robe?

Comment that a 17 year old shepherd boy had no real need of the robe. Giving him such a gift was inevitably going to cause hard feelings among the brothers.

Discuss how parents today may show favouritism? (Allowing one child privileges that another does not have; buying extravagant gifts for one and not for another; allowing grandparents to favour one child over another; failing to recognize age differences; failing to recognize that caring for a handicapped or especially needy child can cause other children to not receive adequate care or attention).

Choose a person to read Genesis 37:4.

Encourage an answer: How did the older brothers react to the gift of the robe?

Ask: Did Jacob address the feelings of the brothers? (There is no record that Jacob realized the great error he committed).

Seek a brief discussion from the group: Do you think we as parents are sometimes blind to the favouritism shown to one child over another.

2. Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take (Genesis 37:5-14)

Have someone read the above passage.

Ask: What is the content of the first dream? (verses 5-8)

Add: What is the content of the second dream? (verse 9)

Encourage a discussion: How did Jacob react to the second dream?

Suggest: Although Jacob rebuked Joseph about his presumptuous attitude, he nonetheless pondered the meaning of the dream. Dreams were not an uncommon way for God to reveal his will to people in this historical era. Jacob must also have realized that Joseph was an exceptional person. This would have accounted for some of his favouritism.

Now seek responses to this: Did Jacob understand that the brothers' resentment was so strong?

Suggest this if the comments don't express it: He rebuked Joseph for the dream which he interpreted, as did the brothers, as saying that they would all bow down to him. However, he is oblivious to the hatred which the brothers have for Joseph. This hatred could not have resulted just from either the luxurious coat or the fantastic dreams. These things were the culmination of their seeing their father's favouritism over years.

3. Anger Erupts (Genesis 37:15-24)

Have someone read Genesis 37:15-24.

Comment: Notice that Joseph is diligent in tracking down his brothers. He wore his bright coat on this trek across the desert and fields. Joseph's immaturity and pride is clearly demonstrated by this action.

Call for an answer: Which brother was unwilling to go along with the plan to kill Joseph? (See verse 21-22).

Now ask: What was the result of his intervention? (Joseph was thrown into a dry watering hole or place for storing water).

4. Capitalizing on Circumstances (Genesis 37: 25-28)

Comment that once one starts a sinful, hateful and wrong act, it is almost inevitable that further actions will lead one deeper and deeper into evil.

Have someone read Genesis 27: 25-28.

Urge an answer: What circumstance led to the next action of the brothers? (A caravan on its way to Egypt was passing by and the brothers sold Joseph to the leaders.)

Request an answer: Which brother seemed to be leading the others at this time? (Judah)

5. Reaping the Consequences (Genesis 37:29-36)

Ask: What other act compounded their sin? (They took Joseph's colourful robe, dipped it in blood and took it to their father.)

Suggest the following to the participants: They caused their father great grief which endured for many years. Although they were together in this vile act, it is not unreasonable to suppose that they would become suspicious of one another because they had betrayed one of their own brothers.

Encourage a response: Which brother genuinely mourned what had happened? (Reuben (verse 29) understood that this act would cause their father great grief).

State: Like hundreds of parents who have lost a child, Jacob was unable to deal with the death of his child.

Have someone read verses 34-35 for the poignant account of Jacob's grief.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Conclude with this: The story ends with the account of Jacob's grief. His favouritism towards Joseph carried a high price. Many parents today have experienced such pain when their son or daughter have been killed or maimed in accidents which could have been prevented. They live to regret the permissive attitude which allowed teenagers to drink alcohol or have inappropriate friends or stay out into early morning hours.

Many years later Jacob learned that God was working in these terrible events. Joseph was sold in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard (Genesis 37:36). Many opportunities came to Joseph and years later he would be able to provide food for his starving brothers and his father.

In the midst of life's tragedies, we try to hold on to the reality that God is at work even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Nonetheless we must remember that parenting children is one of life's greatest responsibilities. We must daily ask God for wisdom and patience to guide our children in His path.

Close in prayer.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Where Dreams May Lead **Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28**

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Robes, Dreams, and Bad Attitudes

Some youth may have seen the movie ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor DreamCoat***.

Discuss memorable events from the movie.

Draw a “robe of many colours” which you think Joseph’s father may have provided for him. What would be the modern day equivalent of this? In other words, what article of clothing might a parent today provide for a young person which would give him/her pleasure and status and might possibly cause jealousy if other siblings were not given something of equal value? If you can’t think of an article of clothing, what other possession would fall in this category?

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Beginning the Service:

Sing **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**.

Offering:

Praying for the World:

In many Eastern countries, there is an intimate tie between politics and religion. In politically unstable times, those who are arrested for simply living out their Christian faith are viewed the same as political dissidents. Pray that those who are arrested as a result of their Christian faith will not be treated as political criminals, but that their life and testimony will reflect something much more meaningful than earthly politics. Ask God to sustain believers who are facing harsh treatment. Pray that they will remain faithful in their walk with Christ and inspire others to do the same.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Where Dreams May Lead

Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Introduction:

©2001-2010, Eternal Interactive, LLC, All Rights Reserved. www.homechurchonline.com

Where Dreams May Lead – Genesis 37:3-12, 18-28

Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

Joseph's dreams and his family's response to them illustrate that our expressions of our hopes and dreams may bring conflict and difficulty, especially when not expressed carefully. Today's study has led us to ask, "What will you do with your dreams?"

A popular song **To Dream the Impossible Dream** was written for a dramatic interpretation of the Spanish classic story of Don Quixote. *The Man of La Mancha* was written in 1615 by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra and continues to be considered one of the great classical novels of all time. The hero, Don Quixote, is an elderly knight who ventures out on a quest to provide justice and rescue maidens in distress. Though he is a comic figure, he nonetheless provides an example which has endured of a person who sees a task to be done and pursues it against many odds.

In 1972 the stage version of *Man of La Mancha* became a hit which endures to this day partly because of the song written by Mitch Leigh (music) and Joe Darion (lyrics). The first verse sets the tone for the song:

To dream the impossible dream
To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
To run where the brave dare not go.

(This song is available on YouTube and other Internet sources both in lyrical form or in musical form).

This vision of "the dream" has captured the mind of many. This involves finding a task that is bigger than you are and committing your all to it. From these dreams have come many new ideas and changes which bring hope to many.

Developmental psychologist Daniel Levison speaks of "The Dream" as a necessary part of young adulthood. This is a vision of what one wants to accomplish in life. In midlife "The Dream" may need to be modified as reality indicates that all of life's hopes and aspirations may not be fulfilled. But losing the dream altogether brings difficulties both in midlife and beyond.

Joseph's dreams were different, however. His dreams were given by God. As a very young man he dreamed. His accounting of the dream to his brothers is found in Genesis 37:6-9. ***Listen to this dream I had: "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." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."***

Even Joseph's father reprimanded him for the conceit which these dreams seem to indicate. However, in verse 11 we are told, ***His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.***

Years later, the vision of this dream was to come true when the brothers came to Joseph to beg for food for their families because of the famine in Canaan. They bowed down to this ruler of Egypt without knowing he was their own brother.

Joseph was not done with dreams as a young person. While in prison in Egypt, he had occasion to interpret the dreams of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker who were imprisoned with him because of Pharaoh's anger. He had positive news for the cupbearer and negative news for the baker. But his interpretations of both dreams were accurate.

Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream which no one could interpret for him. The cupbearer remembered Joseph in prison and Joseph was given the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dream. He said that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Not only did he interpret the dream, he made a recommendation to Pharaoh on how to prepare for the seven years of drought. Joseph was made the administrator of those plans and his prominent place in Pharaoh's palace was established.

An important verse in the story cannot be overlooked. Verse 16 of chapter 41 says, ***"I cannot do it" Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."***

This verse contains the heart of truth for us as we dream. We will most likely not be given prophetic dreams as Joseph was given nor will we have an opportunity to advise a powerful leader in the interpretation of a dream he might have.

But the truth remains.

Whatever our personal dreams may be, they will only be realized through God's direction. Joseph had matured from the 17 year old boy who lorded it over his brothers with a dream which indicated that he would be more powerful than they would be. He now understands that God gave him the dream. However it is to be fulfilled will be determined by God's will. When the opportunity comes to interpret Pharaoh's dream, Joseph can only depend on God. To interpret wrongly would mean death. To interpret rightly meant life for Egyptians and for Joseph's own family. At that time, Joseph could not know the result of his interpretation. He only knew that God would have to direct his answer.

This reality must direct all of the dreams we as everyday people in the 21st century have. Only God can direct the dreams and the fulfillment of the dreams. We need dreams and hopes that are larger than we are – that push us to the limit of our abilities and endurance. Children may dream about being astronauts or doctors or scientists

who discover the cure for cancer. Adolescents may dream of serving as peace mediators and helpers of the poor. Adults have dreams for themselves and for their children. Older people dream of peace on earth and peace for their families. Churches dream of winning the lost and discipling new believers. Missionaries dream of people groups who have never heard the gospel coming to believe in the Messiah.

All of these dreams are good in and of themselves, but they will never come to fruition unless the dreamer depends on God for their fulfillment. Like Joseph we must say, "I cannot do it. But God can."

Call to Commitment:

If our dreams have grown dim; if our dreams are really all about our own desires and hopes; if we don't see a way that our dreams can ever be fulfilled, today is the day to say with Joseph "I cannot do it. But God can."

Concluding the Service:

You may want to ask the readers to repeat the verses used in the Gathering Time.

You may want to close the service by singing **I Gave My Life for Thee**.

Reading 1

Show me your ways, O Lord,
Teach me your paths;
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
For you are God my Saviour,
And my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Reading 2

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to an idol
Or swear by what is false.
He will receive blessing from the Lord
And vindication from God his Savior. (Psalm 24:3-5)

Reading 3

How great is your goodness,
Which you have stored up for those who fear you,
Which you bestow in the sight of men
On those who take refuge in you.
In the shelter of your presence you hide them
From the Intrigues of men. (Psalm 31:19-20)

Use the following outline to guide the Bible study. You may put the outline on a whiteboard, a large piece of paper or provide copies for each student to use.

Where Dreams May Lead Genesis 37

Favouritism Brings Trouble (Genesis 37:1-4)

Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take (Genesis 37:5-14)

Anger Erupts (Genesis 37:15-24)

Capitalizing on Circumstances (Genesis 37: 25-28)

Reaping the Consequences (Genesis 37:29-36)

Favouritism Brings Trouble (Genesis 37:1-4)

Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take (Genesis 37:5-14)

Anger Erupts (Genesis 37:15-24)

Capitalizing on Circumstances (Genesis 37: 25-28)

Reaping the Consequences (Genesis 37:29-36)

Favouritism Brings Trouble (Genesis 37:1-4)

Some Dreams Can Be Hard to Take (Genesis 37:5-14)

Anger Erupts (Genesis 37:15-24)

Capitalizing on Circumstances (Genesis 37: 25-28)

Reaping the Consequences (Genesis 37:29-36)