



Small Group Curriculum

Dreaming Wide Awake: Dare to Dream • WEEK 1 • Genesis 37:1-11

Jacob, who God renamed Israel, “had 12 sons, who become the founding fathers of the 12 tribes of Israel.”¹ This week, we kick off a 7-week series called *Dreaming Wide Awake*, studying the life of Joseph who was one of the 12 sons.

REMINDERS

- Interested in joining our meals ministry team? Help is needed, so if you’re interested, please reach out to Carry Hardy at carrie.freedom.usa@gmail.com.
- Fill in the blanks with your group. At Awakening our ministry model (aka “Discipleship Pathway”) is our blueprint for how we do ministry. Our four expressions of church life are: _____ to know Jesus. _____ as a disciple of Jesus. _____ in the name of Jesus. _____ the love of Jesus. (*come, grow, serve, share*)

ICEBREAKER

With this week potentially being your first session with your group, be sure to take the appropriate time to get to know each other. You may find that you will need to spend more time this first session building relational rapport before you can go scripturally and prayerfully deep. That’s okay and to be expected.

INTRODUCTIONS: Go around the room and ask each person to share their name, how long they have been attending Awakening, and one of their top highlights in life.

QUESTION: “As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?”²

INTRODUCTION

The story of Joseph explains to the original readers how the Israelites came to Egypt.³ Earlier in Genesis God makes a covenant with Abraham, Joseph’s great-grandfather, and promises to bless all nations through his descendants.⁴ Joseph may have thought in various times in his life that things weren’t going so well. When viewed through the lens of divine providence, his life and all that followed unfolded under God’s sovereign plan for the redemption of humanity, a plan that continues to this very day. Even Joseph recognized towards the end of his life that God had greater plans than what he could foresee (Gen 50:19-20). Today, you and I are considered

¹ *Serendipity Bible for Groups: New International Version*, (Littleton, CO: Serendipity House, 1989), 98.

² *Serendipity Bible for Groups: New International Version*, 98.

³ Ted Cabal et al., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 60.

⁴ Brian Collins, “The Abrahamic Covenant,” in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

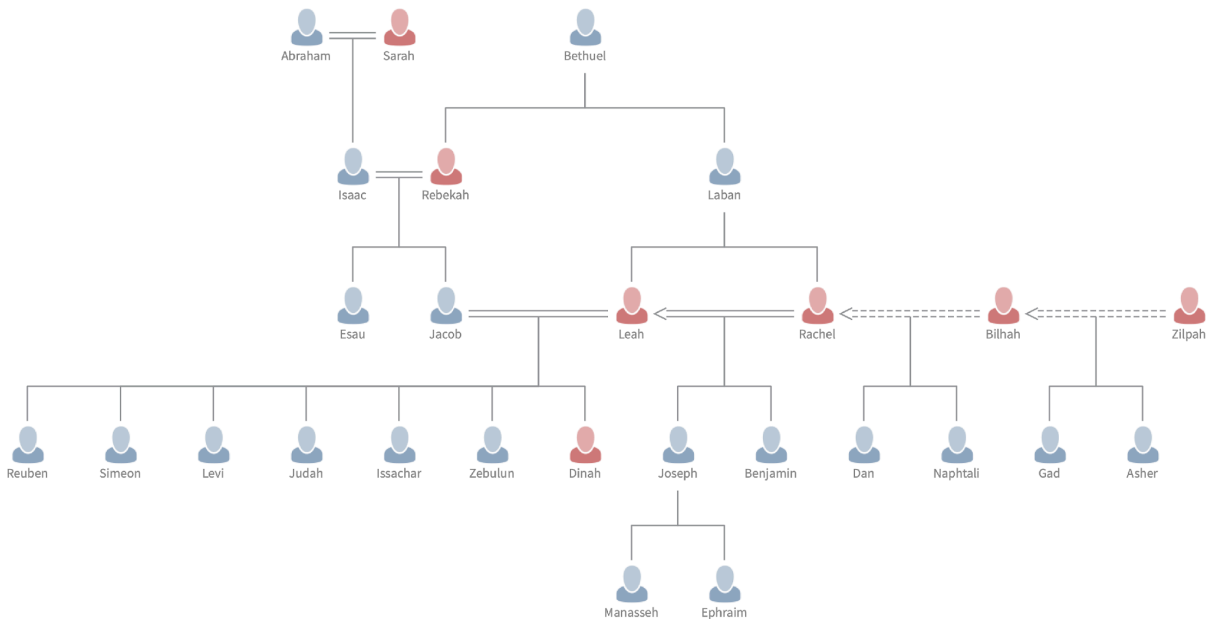
AWAKENING

children of Abraham by faith (Gal 3:7) who will inherit the same blessing promised to Abraham regardless of our ethnic background.

Transition: Today we'll read the beginning of Joseph's story where God reveals His plans through dreams.

DISCUSSION

READ: Genesis 37:1-11



BACKGROUND: Jacob had 12 sons through four women – Leah and Rachel and female servants Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph and Benjamin are two sons borne through Rachel. It is thought that Benjamin was very young (maybe a year old or so)⁵ at the time of Genesis 37.

QUESTIONS:

1. How old was Joseph? According to verse 2 what did Joseph do?
2. What was Jacob's attitude towards Joseph? What is the reason given for Jacob's attitude? What was Joseph's brothers' attitude toward him? Would you have felt similarly if you were one of Joseph's brothers?
3. Describe the two dreams in the passage. "Why do you think God gave these dreams to Joseph?"⁶

⁵ Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 215.

⁶ *Serendipity Bible for Groups: New International Version*, 98.

A W A K E N I N G

- o Note: Elsewhere in Genesis (41:32) it says God gave the dream (in this case to the Pharaoh) twice “to indicate its certainty.”⁷ In other words, God made sure that it was clear that this was His plan and that it would come to fruition.
4. How did Jacob respond to Joseph’s dreams? What do you think it means when it says that he “kept the matter in mind (Gen 37:11b)?”

RESPONSE

- Describe a past situation in your life where you thought that your life wasn’t going as you had planned? That maybe God had forgotten about you?
- Looking back, what did this season teach you about God, yourself and those around you?
- As a small group, how do we want to encourage one another during both the valleys and mountaintops of life?

GROUP PRAYER

Pray for deeper trust in God as we face hardships and tragedies in our personal lives, within our communities, across our nation, and throughout the world. Ask for His mercy and guidance in times of need.

DREAM JOURNAL PRAYER PROMPT

Recall dreams or God’s promises that seemed evident in your life in your past. Is there an area that seems stuck or seemingly going in a direction contrary to what you had expected? Or do the way things seem today make you doubt or question them? Ask God to expand your vision and see things from His point of view.

⁷ H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Genesis*, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 428.



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