



Small Group Curriculum

Dreaming Wide Awake: Shaped in the Shadows • WEEK 3 • Genesis 39:1-20

You've been faithful, but it feels like nothing is changing. You wonder if God even sees you anymore. Joseph's lowest season, falsely accused and forgotten, became the place where God shaped his character most deeply. Sometimes the shadows are where God does His most important work. He hasn't abandoned you; He's preparing you.

REMINDERS

- Dreaming Wide Awake Journals
- Join our space team for Saturday & Sunday Set-Up and Teardown. Email layth@awakeningchurch.com
- Help is needed for our Meals Ministry. Email Carri at carrie.freedom.usa@gmail.com.

ICEBREAKER

Read the quote from Michelangelo: *"The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material."*

- **Discussion Question:** Where does a great work of art, or a "God-sized dream" for your life, truly begin? How does Michelangelo's perspective challenge you to see your own life's potential?
- **Discussion Question:** What is a "God-sized dream" or a profound, meaningful purpose that you believe God has placed in your heart?

INTRODUCTION

Read: Genesis 39:1-20

The Promise in the Difficulty: The text states, "**The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered**" (v. 2) even *after* he was sold into slavery.

- **QUESTION:** What does Joseph's life—going from a favored son to a slave, and then a prisoner—teach us about the statement: "**Difficulty is not DERAILEMENT but DEVELOPMENT?**" How have you personally experienced this? What did God shape within you?

DIGGER DEEPER

Character Shaping: 3 AREAS GOD USE TO SHAPE OUR CHARACTER in the shadows:

1. **Faithfulness Check: BEST vs. EASIEST**

AWAKENING

- a. **Scripture (Summary):** Galatians 6:9-10 (Don't grow weary in doing good).
 - b. **Key Idea:** "It's the decisions you make in **OBSCURITY** that shape your **DESTINY**."
 - c. **QUESTION:** Describe a time when you chose the **BEST** (the right, difficult, faithful path) over the **EASIEST**. How did that decision, though unseen by many, shape your character or prepare you for the future?
- 2. Word Check: ADDRESS vs. AVOID**
- a. **Scripture (Summary):** Ephesians 4:15 (Speaking the truth in love to grow).
 - b. **QUESTION:** What is one area of your life (attitude, habit, fear, etc.) that God's Word is currently prompting you to **ADDRESS** rather than **AVOID**? What would applying Ephesians 4:15 look like in this situation?
- 3. Integrity Check: CONVICTION vs. COMPROMISE**
- a. **Scripture (Context):** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (Flee from immorality, honor God with your body).
 - b. **Joseph's Example:** Joseph fled the situation, leaving his cloak. He stated, "**How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?**" (v. 9).
 - c. **QUESTION:** Joseph chose to **Do the RIGHT thing even if things don't go RIGHT**. Where do you feel the most pressure today to compromise a core conviction? What is your plan to "flee" or stand guard?

RESPONSE

Read Brueggemann's quote about life being "sandwiched": *Life is confidently settled. (v. 1-6, 21-23) **AND** Life must be lived at great risk. (v. 7-20) Both are true. Either taken by itself is false...*

QUESTION: How does holding these two truths—the **security** of God's presence and the need for **courageous integrity** in risk—help you embrace the "God-sized dream" for your life this week?

GROUP PRAYER

*End with a time of prayer, asking God to work **DEEPLY** within the group members so He can work **GREATLY** through them.*

DREAM JOURNAL PRAYER PROMPT

Andrew Murray was a South African pastor, missionary, and prolific Christian author who wrote the following "formula for trials,":

He brought me here. It's by His will I am in this straight place. In that fact I will rest. He

A W A K E N I N G

will keep me here in His love and give me grace to behave as His child. Then He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends for me to learn. In His good time, He will bring me out again—how and when only He knows.

So let me say: I am Here by God's appointment.
In His keeping. Under His training. For His time.

JOURNAL: Take this week to write in your Dreaming Wide Awake journal, listing all the significant trials you have experienced in life. Next to each trial, describe the ways God has used this trial to grow and strengthen you.

NOTE: Bible passages found [here](#).