

Building on Your Past (Genesis 37:1-4)

Keep Your Dream Alive – Part 1

Life Church St. Louis – September 9, 2013

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. God _____ your family background

Psalms 139:16 (NIV) Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

A. Your _____ were chosen by God

Genesis 29:18 (NIV) Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel."

B. Your _____ were selected by God

C. Your _____ prepares you for your future

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV) Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Genesis 41:51 (NIV) Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."

2. Choose to live with _____

Proverbs 13:6 (NIV) Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

A. Submit to _____ over you

Genesis 37:2a (NIV) Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, ...

B. Always speak the _____

Genesis 37:2b (NIV) ... and he brought their father a bad report about them.

C. The Lord will give you _____

Genesis 37:3 (NIV) Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him.

D. Expect _____ to God's dream

Genesis 37:4 (NIV) When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Building on Your Past (Genesis 37:1-4) – Study Guide

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Intro. What kinds of dreams do people have for their lives?

What kinds of dreams does God have for people's lives (Ephesians 2:10)?

How can a person know what God's dream(s) for their life is?

Do you know what God's dream(s) for your life is? Share some of the important details of your God-given dream(s).

1A. How does the fact that God has plans for your whole life encourage and motivate you (Psalm 139:16)?

1B. Explain Joseph's problematic family issues (Genesis 29-30, 35:16-20). How did God use these issues in Joseph's life?

1C. Why should you not dwell on your past (Isaiah 43:18-19, Genesis 41:51)?

1D. In what ways can a person's past prepare them for their future? How has your past and family of origin prepared you for life?

1E. Do you have any unresolved issues with your parents, siblings or children? If so, what can you do to bring resolution?

2A. How would you define integrity (Proverbs 13:6)? What are the benefits of integrity?

2B. In what ways does Joseph's submission to his father's authority prepare him for the rest of his life (Genesis 37:2, Exodus 20:12)?

2C. Why might it have been difficult for Joseph to bring a bad report on his brothers (Genesis 37:2)? What character qualities did this demonstrate?

2D. How did Jacob's relationship with Joseph help him and cause him problems (Genesis 37:3-4)?

2E. Why can you always expect opposition to God's dream for your life (Genesis 37:4)? How should you respond?

2F. What aspect of this lesson can you apply to your life this week? Who can you invite to church for next Sunday's message in the series **Keep Your Dream Alive**?