

Strategic Planning for Dreams (Genesis 41:33-57)

Keep Your Dream Alive – Part 7
Life Church St. Louis – October 20, 2013
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

James 4:13-15 (NIV) Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

1. Seek God's wisdom to make a _____

Genesis 41:33 (NIV) "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:34-36 (NIV) Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine ...

2. Trust God to put you in _____

Genesis 41:38-40 (NIV) So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."

3. Put God's plan into _____

Genesis 41:46 (NIV) Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

Genesis 41:47-48 (NIV) During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

4. Expect God's _____ on your dream

Genesis 41:50-52 (NIV) Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

Genesis 41:56-57 (NIV) When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

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Study Guide

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Intro. How do man's plans and God's determination of his steps work together (Proverbs 16:9)?

What is the problem with planning without God's input (James 4:13-15)?

Why is a dream without a plan useless?

1A. Do you think that Joseph knew he was the man needed for the job (Genesis 41:33)? Why or why not?

1B. How do you think that Joseph came up with the plan he presented to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:34-36)?

1C. What plans do you have to carry out a dream in your life? If you don't have any plans, how could you develop them?

2A. In what ways did God move to put Joseph in the right place to fulfill the dream (Genesis 41:38-40)?

2B. How did God provide for Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 41:45)? What challenges to you think Joseph faced in his marriage?

2C. Why is patience a necessary quality to seeing God's dreams for your life fulfilled?

3A. Describe the ups and downs of Joseph's 13 years in Egypt (Genesis 41:46).

3B. How did Joseph's past experiences prepare him for the massive job he now had (Genesis 41:47-48)?

3C. What things can keep you from putting God's plan into action in your own life?

4A. How does the naming of Joseph's children give us insight into God's blessing on his life (Genesis 41:50-52)?

4B. In what ways did Joseph's fulfillment of his dream bring blessing to others (Genesis 41:56-57, 42:1-3)?

4C. What plan could you make to fulfill God's dream for your life of leading others to faith in Jesus Christ?