



ENTER God's presence

Psalms 139:1-8,11-12

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue, you, Lord, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you

Gracious God, When life feels overwhelming and the path ahead is hidden by chaos, pain, or betrayal, remind us that You are always at work—even beyond what we can see or understand. Help us to trust Your purpose and presence, knowing that in every circumstance, You are shaping our story for Your glory and our good. As we turn to the story of Joseph, open our hearts to see Your hand behind what is seen, guiding and redeeming every detail. In Jesus' name, Amen.



SHARE life together

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this last week?
2. Have you ever shared a dream with others and received a negative or hostile response? What was that experience like for you?
3. Reflect on a time when you witnessed or experienced dysfunction—such as favouritism or jealousy—in a close group. How has this experience shaped your life choices?



VERSE for the week

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:19-20
(Extended verse Gen 37:1-20)



REMEMBER this week

**"God's dream
outlasts our
dysfunction"**

Did you know that it is estimated that almost 25% of Muslims that come to Jesus encounter Him through dreams and visions. Often these dreams and visions come to them when they seek God intensively, but don't have a knowledge of the gospel or contact with Christians. These supernatural occurrences happen all over the Islamic world. It may be somewhat strange to our Western ears, to hear of God speaking to people through dreams. However, God has been doing for a long time, in fact many examples in the Old Testament can be found including God speaking to Joseph in our Genesis reading. Like Joseph, dreams from God are not always received well by others. Particularly when God speaks into moments and times of chaos and dysfunction. When what's happening around us hinders our ability to engage with his message. God however does not dependent upon how we receive his message to us. In fact, he will often work during the chaos and dysfunction we experience to help us fully understand his message of hope and redemption.



LISTEN attentively

Read [Genesis 37:1-20](#)

4. Try to summarise the main idea of this passage.
5. What verse/concept/teaching in this reading caught your attention and what was challenging/confronting/comforting about it for you?
6. How did the dreams God gave Joseph contribute to the family tension in this reading?
7. What elements of dysfunction are present in Joseph's family, and how do these impact their ability to engage with message of the dreams?
8. How might jealousy and favouritism have impacted their ability to see God at work in this situation?

God's purposes and plans are far greater than our brokenness and dysfunctional world. Yet God rather than taking the brokenness and dysfunction away, he will work through the circumstances and things we face to bring about his purposes. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28).



GROW deeper

God speaking to us in different ways, such as in dreams, is risky. How do we know that we are hearing from God? How do we know that we are interpreting things rightly? How do we know we are not just making things up to suit our own wants and desires? To be honest, it is risky. It was risky in our reading today as well, since no one in the story, not even Joseph, truly understood or interpreted the dreams correctly. In fact, it is only later in the story, as we shall find out, that the message of the dreams became clearer. It is like that for us too when God speaks to us in unconventional ways—when he speaks and we don't quite understand or don't have the right interpretation. Yet God, in his wisdom, speaks to us in different ways purposefully, as He knows what he is doing in our lives despite how we might respond. Sometimes, the Lord even works through our misunderstandings and misinterpretations to bring about His purpose and glory.

9. Why do you think God speaking through dreams can sometimes provoke conflict rather than encouragement within a family or community setting?

- 10. Have you ever had the experience of God speaking to you in an unconventional way? What happened?**
- 11. How can remembering Joseph's journey help us respond differently to dysfunction we see and experience in our own lives?**



LIVE purposefully

God's work in Joseph's life began with God given dreams and deep family dysfunction - jealousy, favouritism, and broken relationships that seemed to derail God's purposes. Yet what's remarkable is that God's plans weren't thwarted by the messiness of human brokenness. God's purposes came to fruition in Joseph's life not despite his family's dysfunction, but through it. The very betrayal that seemed to destroy him became the pathway to its fulfillment. This reminds us that God can weave our most painful experiences - the rejection, the unfairness, even the ways others have wronged us - into the fabric of His greater purpose for our lives. God's plans and calling aren't cancelled by the dysfunction around you or the wounds you've endured. Sometimes God uses the very thing that breaks us to position us for the breakthrough he has planned.

- 12. What practical steps could we take to address dysfunction so that when God does speak that we are more attentive to what he is doing and saying, even when we don't immediately understand?**
- 13. In what ways can you be more intentional in your walk with the Lord, so that when difficult times come your focus is on God and the bigger picture he has for your life?**
- 14. How can we encourage each other, especially those going through very hard times, to focus on the Lord's grace and mercy, whilst remembering that he has all our life days in his hands and is working his purposes in us.**



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for his commitment to work his purposes in the lives of his people. Praise God also for how he works his grace into every part of our lives, even the places where we don't see him working.
- Ask God to protect those who are going through brokenness and dysfunction in their life journey. Pray that God would continue to remind them of his continual presence with them and his promise that he is working for their good.
- For those we know who are experiencing health issues-physical or mental health; those grieving; those struggling with general life issues.
- Thank God for all his good gifts. Ask for a thankful heart even when we don't see or understand what God is doing in our lives.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], God's grace and purposes in your life, are bigger than you can imagine. Amen