

25,000 Mornings

WAKE UP AND DREAM

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH.



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WAKE UP AND DREAM

INTRODUCTION

Most people dream while they sleep. I want to challenge you to wake up and dream. Wake up to a brand-new day and dream with your eyes wide open. Wake up and live each day to see your God-given purpose fulfilled each and every day. Choose to make the most of each day.

You see, our lives are just a collection of single days, one right after the other. The sun rises, the sun sets. The success of our lives will be determined by how we handle each individual day. A lot of people only live to survive each day. Very few people live intentionally to truly succeed each day. Because of this, many people wind up at the end of their lives with no real accomplishment or no real value or meaning to their life.

Psalms 90:10,12 says, "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

This scripture was written by Moses 3,000 years ago at the end of Israel's 40 years in the wilderness. Instead of traveling from Egypt directly into their promised land, they settled for the wilderness and an entire generation, including Moses, died without entering into God's best. I believe this is a picture of where a lot of people are today. They end up settling for something that they were never created for. They die without experiencing God's best for their lives.

Here at the end of his life, Moses is saying that life gives us trouble and sorrow, but if we learn to "number our days," we will gain a heart of understanding or wisdom regarding the benefits and blessings of even the most difficult days of our lifetime.

To "number" = (Hebrew) to count, reckon, number, **assign, tell, appoint, prepare.**

In other words, what God's word is telling us is that we need **to learn to assign purpose to each and every day** that we live. We need to make our days count, rather than just count our days. We need to give an assignment to each day and allow our days to serve the purpose for which God has called us to live.

So, as an exercise, let's literally number our days. **Psalms 90:10** says, "Our days may come to 70." Multiply the

years you have lived by 365. Then subtract that from 25,000.

70 years = 25,550 days on this earth.

(CNN) Dec 21, 2017 - Americans can now expect to live **78.6 years**, on average. (Women) **81.1 years** vs. (Men) **76.1 years**.

Worldwide, the average life expectancy at birth was 71.5 years (68.4 yrs for males and 72.8 yrs for females).

Depending on your age, you can determine how many days you have spent on the earth and how many days you approximately have left.

- 20yrs / 7,300 days lived / 18,250 days left
- 30yrs / 10,950 days lived / 14,600 days left
- 40yrs / 14,600 days lived / 10,950 days left
- 50yrs / 18,250 days lived / 6,750 days left
- 60yrs / 21,900 days lived / 3,650 days left

Obviously, these are only approximates, and averages.

Psalms 90:10, 12 "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. ¹²Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

There are three things that we learn from this passage:

1. We only have a certain number of days to live.
2. We should assign purpose to each day.
3. We should make the most of each day because our choice determines our destiny.

You must have a dream, a purpose, and a reason to get up every day. You must have a reason to wake up and dream.

In this Six-Week Study, we will examine the life of Joseph, the son of Jacob, whose dreams created difficulties for him. But his dreams were also the indicator of his life's purpose. He eventually fulfilled these bigger-than-life-sized dreams. You also have dreams that are an indicator of your life's purpose. In this journey through the life of Joseph we will discover the joys and trials of chasing a dream. But ultimately, the joy of this journey is discovering your purpose, your gift, your reason to wake up and dream and make the most of each day. Let's wake up and dream.

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WAKE UP AND DREAM

LESSON 1

MAKE THE MOST OF EACH DAY

Genesis 37

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob, **Genesis 37-50**. As a 17-year-old shepherd, Joseph brings a bad report about his brothers to their father (**Genesis 37:2**). He is labeled a tattle-tale. This, combined with Jacob's obvious favoritism towards Joseph, causes his brothers to resent him. (**37:3-4**). Along with his favoritism, when Jacob presented Joseph with a special coat of many colors, he was hated even more (**Genesis 37:3**). To make matters worse, Joseph begins sharing his dreams of him one day ruling over his family (**Genesis 37:11-15**). The brothers have had enough and plot to kill him.

At one point, Joseph's father sends him to check on his brothers, while they were working in the field.

Genesis 37:19-20 (NIV) "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."

Reuben, the oldest, objects to murder, so instead, the brothers sell Joseph as a slave and deceive their father into thinking Joseph had been killed by a wild animal (**Genesis 37:18-35**).

Ultimately, Joseph's dreams become a reality. We will look at more of Joseph's life in the following lessons.

But let's begin with the obvious: Joseph was a dreamer. Every single one of us needs a dream to live for. If we want to make the most out of each day, we need to wake up and dream. We need a dream to motivate us, to drive us, to challenge us and to inspire us.

Here are three things you need to do, to discover your dream, your passion and your purpose:

- a. **Believe that God has a dream for you.**
- b. **Evaluate yourself.** (What are the most important people, places and passions in your life?)
- c. **Act on it.** (Take the first step toward achieving your dream.)

Some say, live like there's no tomorrow. I say, live like there is a tomorrow. A bright and hopeful tomorrow. So bright, you can't wait to wake up and live your dream.

Some people live so far in the past that they can't really live right now in the present. If this describes you, you are either reveling in your successes of the past or living in the regret of your failures/mistakes. But either way, your focus is wrong and you are missing out on today.

Some people live so far in the future, that they are missing out on the beauty of today. If this describes you, you are living in so much hopeful anticipation that your ship is going to come in or that your knight in shining armor is going to show up, that you are missing out on the wonderful opportunities that are in front of you right now.

One of your 25,000 mornings slips right by you every time you invest yourself "too much in the past" or "too much in the future."

The bottom line: Make the most of each day. Make the most of today.

When you start living with a purpose, money, possessions and materialism become a tool, not a prize. They become the means to an end, not the end. People matter more than things, and you live your life to bless others.

Wake up and dream: there is a dream to realize, a purpose to walk in, and a blessed life to live.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many days have you lived? How many do you have left?
2. What would you do if you had only one day to live?
3. Do you have a dream to live for?
4. Do you feel like you have a purpose to fulfill?
5. What is your dream?
6. What obstacles are preventing you from accomplishing your dream?
7. Have you ever evaluated yourself? (What are the most important people, places and passions in your life?)

8. Do you ever find yourself living too much in the past or too much in the future? How?
9. Are you moving in the direction of your dream?
10. What step can you take today to move in the direction of your dream?

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WAKE UP AND DREAM

LESSON 2

"HERE COMES TROUBLE"

Genesis 37-39

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

Introduction: Joseph is sold by his brothers as a slave to a migrant group of Midianites, who happened to be traveling on their way to Egypt. They, in turn, sell Joseph as slave to a man by the name of Potiphar. Potiphar's wife then attempts to seduce Joseph. When he does not give in to her advances, she accuses him of trying to rape her, and Joseph is then thrown into prison.

If you have lived very long, you know that life is not always fair. Bad things, sometimes, happen to good people. Sometimes, Christians have financial problems, get sick, or fight personal battles in their marriages, in their minds, even in their flesh.

2 Corinthians 4:8 says, *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

It does not matter what the enemy is working against you, or what you are struggling with, the Bible says in **Isaiah 54:17** *"No weapon that is formed against you shall be able to prosper."*

The Bible did not say that satan would not form weapons against you or that he would not launch them at you or that they would not touch you.

But what the Bible does say is: "It shall not prosper, it shall not accomplish its intended purpose."

As a matter of fact, **Romans 8:28** says, "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."

It doesn't matter who you are or how spiritual you are, at some point, life is going to deal you a blow. You will experience the unexpected and unexplained situations and problems that catch you off guard and send your life into a spin.

For every person who chases after a dream, there will be adversity. For every step you take toward your designed purpose, there will be a counter step – a counter attack – by your enemy. For every prayer you pray and move you make toward your destiny, satan will launch a counter attack to derail, delay and to try to ultimately destroy you and God's plan for your life. Don't waver, don't quit, don't give up. Keep pushing forward. Keep advancing. Keep fighting. Your dream is worth it.

Don't let adversity be your excuse to quit. Let it be your reason to keep pushing forward.

You must realize, you will face adversity. Every dreamer will face adversity.

1. Joseph faced a problem with his brothers. **(Relationships)** We all have some type of drama with the relationships in our lives.

Genesis 37:23-24 *So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the ornate robe he was wearing –²⁴and they took him and threw him into the cistern.*

2. He became enslaved to the Midianites and a slave in Potiphar's house. **(Bondage and Baggage, Addiction, etc.)** We all battle with some type of bondage and baggage.

Genesis 37:28 *So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.*

Genesis 37:36 *Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.*

3. He was lied about by Potiphar's wife. **(The Unexpected and Unexplained Adversities)** Adversities come into our lives. We will all face unexpected and unexplained adversities from time to time.

Genesis 39:7-8 *and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"⁸ But he refused.*

RELATIONSHIPS, BONDAGE AND BAGGAGE, UNEXPECTED & UNEXPLAINED ADVERSITIES.

Have you experienced hindrances in these areas, in your pursuit of your God-given dream? We all have.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have trouble sharing your dreams with family members? Why?
2. Do you ever feel that your family has more difficulty believing in your dreams than others do? Why or why not?
3. Do you find that you have less patience with family members than friends at work or at church?
4. Have struggles at home hindered you from pursuing your dreams?
5. How can you make the people closest to you a part of your pursuit, rather than adversaries or opponents?
6. Is there any bondage or baggage that you have allowed to hinder your pursuit of your dreams? (Worry, fear, anger, doubt, strongholds, etc.)
7. What steps can you take to break free from these strongholds?
8. What unexpected adversities have taken you by surprise and hindered your pursuit of your dreams?
9. Have you ever asked anyone for help regarding your strongholds?
10. What are the next steps you can take to get back on track and start pursuing your God-given dreams?

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LESSON 3

YOU MUST KEEP LOOKING UP!

Genesis 39-41

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker and Christian who, along with her family, helped many Jews escape the Nazi Holocaust during World War II by hiding them in her closet. She was imprisoned for her actions. She wrote the book "The Hiding Place." She continued to minister and share her story into her late 80's, dying at 91. She was asked, **what was the secret to her stamina?**

She said, "**Look down** and be depressed.

Look around and be oppressed.

Look up and be at rest."

You must always keep looking up. **You must keep a positive attitude.**

The Lord showed favor to Joseph partly because he chose to always keep a positive attitude no matter what adversities came his way.

Genesis 39:2-6 *The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the*

LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Joseph had an excellent spirit. It is clear that God's favor was on Joseph. Regardless of what situation he found himself in, he always kept a great attitude, and he always was promoted and successful.

Genesis 41:38 So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"

There are three areas where you need to be positive, rather than negative:

- a. **Your Thoughts – Proverbs 23:7** (NKJV) *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.*
- b. **Your Words – Proverbs 18:21** (NIV) *The tongue has the power of life and death.*
- c. **Your Actions – John 15:9** (NIV) *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.*

KEYS TO STANDING STRONG WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Four things that you can do to keep a good attitude:

1. Find something to be thankful for.

The only difference between a good day and a bad day is your attitude.

Philippians 4:6-9 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. . . . ⁹And the God of peace will be with you.*

2. Tell yourself it's going to work out for the good.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. . . .*

3. Laugh (Create a diversion)

Proverbs 17:22 (GNT) *Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time.*

A joyful heart is good medicine. (ESV)

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. (KJV)

4. Commit it to the hands of God.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

After Kendall's father, James Bridges, passed away, he saw his mother show resilient strength and grace as she processed the grief of losing her husband of 55-plus years. Below is a portion of an article that Joyce Bridges wrote three years after her husband passed away.

NOT A DEFEAT

by Joyce Bridges

Three years ago, my husband James of 55-plus years went to his eternal reward. I live alone; I eat breakfast alone.

But, lonely? No. I have chosen not to be lonely.

Sometimes I sing, I sing so loud I can't hear my own thoughts. I sing until His presence outshines my sorrow. I sing when times are dark and God makes them bright. I sing when I am sad and it seems the choir of heaven joins me. I sing down in the valley of shadows, and I find myself singing when I awake on the other side.

And I pray: "Father, let your Spirit be so strong in me that He pours into others who are thirsty and dry. Keep my attitude a reflection of Your heart and keep my words pleasing in Your sight. When the enemy brings a spirit of heaviness, help me to refocus on You. Amen."

- **I have determined that I will not waste time worrying about what cannot be changed.**
- **I will not complain when things are not as I would have chosen.**
- **I will draw strength from my wonderful family, my church family, and my many friends.**
- **And I will believe that armies of angels surround me.**
- **I have beautiful memories to sustain me.**

My hope is not just for a home in heaven – but that I will finish strong. James' death was not a defeat – it was his departure to a better place.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider yourself naturally to be a positive or a negative person?
2. Do you have trouble remaining positive when difficulties come your way?
3. How do you choose to process your frustrations with negativity?
4. Do you struggle more with staying positive in thought, words or actions?
5. Have you found a way to constructively manage these areas positively?
6. Name something that you are thankful for. Do this every day.
7. Do you have trouble speaking positively?
8. How do you practice positivity?
9. Does laughter help you stay positive?
10. What next steps can you take to keep a positive attitude?

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LESSON 4

WALKING IN FORGIVENESS

Genesis 50

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

How many of us have ever **needed** to be forgiven? All of us, right? How many have ever **wanted** forgiveness? All of us, right again? You must learn to walk in forgiveness, if you want to be forgiven.

Joseph had to walk in forgiveness.

Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

When Joseph chose forgiveness, it gave God the opportunity to turn his terrible situation into something good.
(Genesis 50:20)

In order to walk in forgiveness you must...

1. You must be forgiven.

Matthew 6:15 (NIV) *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

2. You must be willing to forgive others.

Matthew 18:21-35 (MSG)

Summary: A king forgives a man of a \$100,000 debt. The forgiven man then goes to celebrate and sees another man who owes him \$10. He asks for his \$10. But the other fellow says, "I don't have it. Please have mercy on me."

What would be the right thing to do? Forgive the debt, right? But that's not what he did. He had the man that owed him only \$10 thrown in jail. When the King heard about this, he was very angry. (See scripture below.)

Matthew 18:32-35 *"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."*

As long as you refuse to forgive others, you will live in bondage to: unforgiveness, anger, bitterness and resentment.

3. You must be willing to forgive yourself.

How do you forgive yourself?

- a. **Realize** this is not who you are.
- b. **Recognize** that God does not hold this against you.
- c. **Responsibility** – Take responsibility from this day forward.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a really hard time forgiving someone? Why?
2. What happens to you when you refuse to forgive?
3. According to Matthew 6:15, what happens when you forgive?

Matthew 6:15 (NIV) *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

4. According to **Matthew 6:15**, what happens when you do not forgive?
5. Do you have more trouble forgiving others or yourself? Why?
6. What is the hardest part of forgiveness for you?
7. Do you think you can trust God to work it for good, if you choose to forgive?
8. According to 1 John 1:9, what happens when we confess our sins?

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

9. Have you personally walked through the steps of **1 John 1:9**?
10. What are some next steps that you can take to begin walking in forgiveness?

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WAKE UP AND DREAM

LESSON 5

HELPING OTHERS WITH THEIR DREAMS

Genesis 40-41

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

Genesis 40:1-23 Summary: While Joseph was in prison he helped interpret the dream of a baker and a butler. When the butler was released from prison, he hears that Pharaoh needs help interpreting his own dream. The butler remembers Joseph, and Pharaoh summons Joseph from the prison to the palace. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and is then promoted to second in command of all Egypt. In fact, he is in the very place that he himself dreamed about as a 17-year-old shepherd boy.

Joseph was willing to help others with their dreams. His willingness to help others was the very reason he was remembered and was delivered from prison and positioned to fulfill his own dreams.

Many people think they cannot afford to help someone else with their dream. You can't afford not to.

Many people think, they don't have time to help someone else with their dream. You don't have time not to.

Many people think of helping someone else as only a distraction and a detour from your own dreams. But God has a way of bringing supernatural promotion and provision for your dream and the key is helping others with their dreams.

Genesis 41:7-15

⁷ ...Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

⁸ *In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.*

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. ¹⁰ Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. ¹¹ Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. ¹² Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. ¹³ And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled."

¹⁴ So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

JOSEPH INTERPRETS THE DREAM

Genesis 41:39-40 ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ 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."

When Joseph chose to help others with their dreams, that became the very reason his dreams became a reality.

God wants to bless you...for a reason.

Genesis 12:2 (NIV) "I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing"

HOW CAN YOU BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS?

Find a need and fill it. Find a hurt and heal it.

Look at these verses that teach us the scriptural principle of helping others.

Philippians 1:4 (MSG) "Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand"

Luke 18:29-30 "I guarantee this. Anyone who gives up anything for the kingdom of God will certainly receive many times more in this life and will receive eternal life in the next world to come."

Isn't it amazing, that as you put others first, God puts you first?

Luke 6:38 (MSG) *"Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back – given back with bonus and blessing"*

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

Acts 20:35 *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

Proverbs 11:24 *"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."*

Before you can get your dream, you're going to have to work on someone else's dream.

The greatest way to get what you want is to help someone else get what they want.

If you want love, give love. If you want companionship, give companionship. If you want money, find a way to support someone else.

What you give away will always come back, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, with more than you could ever imagine.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Joseph do in prison to help the baker and the butler?
2. What did Joseph do to help the Pharaoh?
3. What happened when Joseph helped Pharaoh interpret his dream?
4. According to Genesis 12:2, why does God want to bless us?

Genesis 12:2 (NIV) *"I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing."*

5. According to 1 Peter 4:10, what should we use our gifts for?

1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

6. Have you ever felt like you couldn't afford to help someone else with his or her dream, without it costing you part of your dream? Describe that time.
7. What is your greatest fear or hindrance to helping others?
8. According to Acts 20:35, why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

Acts 20:35 *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

9. Name some ways that you can help or be a blessing to others.
10. What are some next steps for you in an effort to help others with their dreams?

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WAKE UP AND DREAM

LESSON 6

EMBRACE YOUR DREAM

Below is a summary of the video teaching by Kendall Bridges. Feel free to take additional notes.

SUMMARY

Review:

1. You must **make the most of each day**. This begins by believing you have a dream.
2. You must realize that **adversity will come**. Don't let adversity be your excuse to quit. Let it be your reason to keep chasing your dreams.
3. Choose to **keep a good attitude**, no matter what. Attitude determines altitude.
4. You must **choose to forgive**. Refuse to live in the prison of unforgiveness.
5. You must be willing to **help others with their dreams**.
6. You must be willing to **"embrace your dream."** (Pay the price.)

YOU MUST BE WILLING TO EMBRACE YOUR DREAM.

You must be willing to pay the price in order to see your dream fulfilled. I'm talking about... Taking action and stepping into your dream.

To embrace your dream, it will cost you something. You must be willing to chase it and embrace it.

Too many people are not willing to embrace the dream. They're willing to dream the dream and talk the dream, but they are not willing to pay the price in order to live the dream.

Too many people want the prize without paying the price.

Think about professional athletes. They don't get to their level of ability without great sacrifice. They practice, practice, practice. Work out, work out, work out. They push their bodies to the limit.

Great Dancers don't reach their level of accomplishment without great sacrifice of time, physical pain and mental toughness.

Accomplished musicians don't achieve their ability without great sacrifice. They commit hours and hours, days and weeks, months and years to rehearse in order to master their skill.

You must be willing to pay the price. You must be willing to take the risk.

RISK-TAKERS WILL EMBRACE THE DREAM.

I am speaking of your God-given purpose in life, but I am also speaking of the way you approach everyday life. Attack life with excitement. Attack your dreams and goals with the confidence that God is on your side.

At one point, Joseph had to make a decision to embrace the dream and say, "Yes" to Pharaoh. You may be thinking, like Joseph possibly was:

- "I'm not sure what is in front of me."
- "I'm not completely sure of what I'm getting myself into."
- "I'm not exactly sure where this road will take me."

Did you know, that is exactly how Abraham felt when he was following God's promise? Read the scripture below.

Hebrews 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."

You may think, "If you aren't sure, then why take the risk?" Because even though I may not be sure of what is in front of me, I'm sure of what is behind me, and I'm not going back.

MAKE THE MOST OUT OF EACH DAY.

You've been given 25,000 mornings. You can't get any do overs from yesterday. Once the day is gone, it is gone. You

can't borrow from tomorrow. All you have is today.

Make the most out of each day. Make the most of today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that you have a God-given dream and purpose for your life?
2. Are you living your dream?
3. What unfulfilled, God-given dreams do you have?
4. What risk-taking adventures have you accomplished in your life?
5. What items are on your bucket list?
6. Are any of your dreams unfulfilled because you have been unwilling to embrace it or pay the price to achieve it? Explain.
7. What is your greatest fear of embracing your dream?
8. What is your greatest hindrance to embracing your dream?
9. What changes are you willing to make in order to see your dreams fulfilled?
10. What next steps can you take to embrace your dream?