

Sermon Discussion Questions for January 6, 2019:

Scripture Passage: Genesis 37

What's Holding Your Back – 3 Things Joseph had to learn in pursuing God's dream for his life.

1. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Did you become anything close to that childhood dream? If not, what changed?
 2. What sparked Joseph's brother's envy and hatred of him? Was any of this provoked by Joseph and could Joseph help it if Jacob (Israel) showed him favoritism? Does the Scripture indicate that Joseph was overly concerned about his brother's negative opinion of him? Were the sons of Israel (Jacob) too concerned about Jacob's opinion of Joseph? Are you overly concerned about other people's opinions of you?
 3. Where do we find our identity and purpose? "Likes" on social media? Opinions of others? Job performance? Social status? Children's success? Where should we find our identity and purpose?
 4. Should Joseph have kept the prophetic dreams to himself instead of sharing them with his brothers and father? The Scripture does not specifically indicate Joseph's attitude or motivation in sharing his dreams. In carefully reading Genesis 37, what do you think his attitude and motivation was in sharing his dreams?
 5. In personalizing question 4, what is your attitude and motivation in fulfilling your calling and blessing by God? What is our ultimate aim? How do you use your status as a child of God and your unique calling and talents to glorify God?
 6. Although the situation described concerning Joseph in chapter 37 looks tragic and hopeless, we know this was just part of God's plan to use Joseph for a special purpose. Do we sometimes lose our trust and faith in God's plan for our life when we encounter challenges and obstacles? How can Joseph's story encourage us? Read Hebrews 11:1.
- Remember to pray for each other's unique challenges and commit to pray throughout the week for one another.
 - Love others as Christ loves you.
 - Fill your mind and heart with the gospel of Christ Jesus.
 - Live out the gospel of Christ which calls for radical Love for God and Love for others.

