



Prophetic Group

UNIT 5: DREAMING BIBLICALLY

Activation

- ▶ Ask God, “what percentage of hope you are currently feeling?” (0% to 100%)
- ▶ Ask God, “was my hope stolen or did I give it away?”
- ▶ Ask God, “can I have that hope back?”
 - ▶ Do you need to let go of any disappointment
 - ▶ Release to God any situation or barrier
- ▶ Now what is your hope percentage?



Core Topics

- ▶ Love God: Abiding, listening, connecting
- ▶ Love Others: Compassion for Others
- ▶ Raised Expectations: Biblical Basis for Prophecy
- ▶ Prophetic protocol and testing
- ▶ **Dreaming Biblically**
- ▶ Biblical symbolism and imagery
- ▶ Words of Knowledge
- ▶ Discernment
- ▶ Corporate prophecy and intercession

Recap 1: Abiding

- ▶ Abiding in God's love
 - ▶ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide** in my love.” - John 15:9
 - ▶ “My **sheep** hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” - John 12:27
- ▶ Practical Steps
 - ▶ Journal - write down what God says to you directly or through others
 - ▶ Let God choose the topic
 - ▶ Write down your dreams

Recap 2: Loving one another

What are some of the things we can say to one another?

- ▶ I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)
- ▶ I am forgiven and blameless. (1 John 2:12, Colossians 1:22)
- ▶ I have been made complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)
- ▶ I am a son of light and not of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- ▶ I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- ▶ I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. (Hebrews 3:1)
- ▶ I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and grace in a time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)
- ▶ I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. (1 Peter 2:5)
- ▶ I am anointed by God. (1 John 2:27)
- ▶ I am a child of God. (1 John 3:1,2)
- ▶ I am loved. (1 John 4:10)

Recap 3: OT vs. NT Prophets

- ▶ Discussions on these topics should be encouraged in church:
 - ▶ Dreams
 - ▶ Visions
 - ▶ Trances
 - ▶ Audible voice of God
 - ▶ Seeing pictures
 - ▶ Angelic Encounters
- ▶ All believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit and do not rely on an OT prophet

Recap 4: Practical Love

- ▶ All prophetic utterance are to be done in love
 - ▶ Values the person in front of you
 - ▶ Puts the person's feelings before the need to give a prophetic word
 - ▶ Love is accountable (go with a witness)
 - ▶ Love is not long winded or out to force a point
 - ▶ Love considers the person's emotions (what happens if this word fails... healing, marriage, children, ...)
 - ▶ Write the words you give down and test them, apologize when wrong

Unit 6: Biblical Symbolism

- ▶ Colors and metals
 - ▶ Numbers
 - ▶ Animals
 - ▶ Objects
 - ▶ Names
 - ▶ Parable images
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- ▶ Imagery and symbolism show up in the Bible in many places: parables, tabernacle, temple, metaphors, dreams, prophecies, psalms...

Dreams

- ▶ “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall **dream** dreams” Acts 2:17
- ▶ “For God speaks ... in a **dream**, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds, then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings, that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man; he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.” – Job 33

Dreams are a form of prophesy

- ▶ OT Dreams are a form of prophesy and they were taken just as seriously
- ▶ Behold, I am against those who prophesy **lying dreams**, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. - Jer 23:32
- ▶ For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell **false dreams** and give empty consolation. – Zec 10:2

Abram

- ▶ Audible voice of God, blessing and where to live
- ▶ As the sun was going down, a deep **sleep** fell on Abram. And behold, **dreadful and great darkness** fell upon him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.” Genesis 15:12-16
- ▶ God given dreams can be dark and intense

King Abimelech of Gerar (Philistine)

- ▶ Conversation with God in a dream:
- ▶ But **God came** to Abimelech in a **dream** by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.” ⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, will you kill an innocent people? ⁵ Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.” ⁶ Then **God said to him in the dream**, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her. ⁷ Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” So Abimelech rose early in the morning... -Genesis 20:3-8

Jacob

- ▶ Hears God's voice and sees angels
- ▶ And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the **angels** of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the **LORD** stood above it and **said**, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was **afraid** and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." - Genesis 28:12-17

Jacob

- ▶ Hears God's voice and is given a business plan and directions...
- ▶ "In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. Then the **angel of God said** to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'" - Gen 31:10-13
- ▶ "But **God came** to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'" - Gen 31:24

Joseph

- ▶ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they **hated him even more for his dreams** and for his words. – Gen 37: 5-8
- ▶ ⁹ Then he dreamed **another** dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his **father rebuked him** and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” And his **brothers were jealous of him**, but his father kept the saying in mind. – Gen 37: 9-11
- ▶ They did not contest the dream or the interpretation. They were upset about the content and took it seriously.

The chief cupbearer and baker

- ▶ And one night they both dreamed ... each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶When Joseph came to them in the morning,...“We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not **interpretations belong to God?** Please tell them to me.”
- ▶ Cupbearer: “In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.” ¹²Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. ¹³In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.
- ▶ Baker: When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, ¹⁷and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.” ¹⁸And Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. ¹⁹In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.” -Genesis 40
- ▶ Joseph does not seem to have a dream about his release?

Pharaoh and Joseph

- ▶ “After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. And he fell asleep and **dreamed a second time**. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. So in the morning his spirit was **troubled**, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.”
- ▶ “The dreams of Pharaoh are one” -Genesis 41

Gideon

- ▶ The enemy dreams and interprets...
- ▶ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a **cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp** of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat." ¹⁴ And his comrade answered, "**This is no other than the sword of Gideon** the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp." As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he **worshiped**. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand." - Judges 7:13-15

Daniel 2 – King Nebuchadnezzar

- ▶ “Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was **troubled**, and his **sleep left** him. Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. ... if you do not **make known to me the dream and its interpretation**, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins... “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.... The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”
- ▶ “Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.”
- ▶ Daniel tells the king the dream and the interpretation of the image/statue
- ▶ [The king answers], “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of **mysteries**, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

Daniel 4 – King Nebuchadnezzar

- ▶ “Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I **told them the dream**, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.”
- ▶ The king calls Daniel and tells him the dream of a great tree
- ▶ “Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was **dismayed** for a while, and his thoughts **alarmed** him.” (the interpretation was not positive)
- ▶ “it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him’”

Daniel 7

- ▶ “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came up out of the sea...”
- ▶ “As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was **anxious**, and the visions of my head **alarmed** me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ‘These four great beasts are four kings ...
- ▶ “Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly **alarmed** me, and my **color changed**, but I kept the matter in my heart.”

New Testament Dreams

- Joseph, concerning Mary's innocence, flight to Egypt, return to Palestine
Matt 1:20 Matt 1:21, Matt 2:13, Matt 2:19-22
- Wisemen – warned not to return to Herod
Matt 2:12
- Pilates wife about Jesus
Matt 27:19
- Paul's vision of the man in Macedonia, crying, "Come over into Macedonia,"
Acts 16:9
- Paul going to Rome
Acts 23:11
- Paul, concerning the shipwreck, and the safety of all on board
Acts 28:23 Acts 28:24



Write it down

- ▶ Steward dreams, visions, and prophetic words
- ▶ “Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he **wrote** down the dream and told the sum of the matter.” -Daniel 7:1
- ▶ “**Write** the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.” Hab 2:2

Dreams

- ▶ "Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in **part**, but when the perfect comes, the **partial** will pass away. ...For now we see in a mirror **dimly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." I Cor 13
- ▶ "It is the glory of God to **conceal** things, but the glory of kings is to search things out." – Prov 25:2
- ▶ Don't get frustrated ... write it down, ask for an interpretation, ask others to also ask for an interpretation, eventually it might make sense
- ▶ It can take pressing in and diligence to hear and understand God; He is infinite and complex beyond reason

Interpretation

- ▶ ALWAYS ask the Holy Spirit for interpretation of an image first
 - ▶ ALWAYS test everything against Scripture
 - ▶ NEVER use a new age website/book for symbolism
 - ▶ NEVER assume a symbol has an exclusive meaning, ex. Lion – Jesus or Satan
 - ▶ Write down what you do not understand... in time it may be repeated
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- ▶ Interpretation of prophecy is from the Holy Spirit; we cannot do it with our minds (or books) alone. Daniel and Joseph attribute interpretation of dreams to God. And the disciples asked for parables to be explained. ALWAYS rely on the Holy Spirit.

Sweet sleep

- ▶ Insomnia, sleep disorders, night terrors can be attacks against sleep and dreams.
- ▶ “keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul ... If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your **sleep** will be sweet.” –Prov 3:21-24
- ▶ Pray before bed that you will have good sleep and dreams
- ▶ Commune with God as you fall asleep... ask Him what is on His heart
 - ▶ Ask for Him to explain a spiritual gift to you
 - ▶ Ask for Him to show you something you still need to overcome
 - ▶ Ask spiritual questions

Dream Interpretation

- ▶ Two mentalities
 - ▶ Literal - a desire to understand with the mind, logical, details
 - ▶ **Symbolic** - pictorial, metaphors, allegories, parables, themes
- ▶ Look for main **themes** and not details
 - ▶ Who is in the dream, are you an observer?
 - ▶ What area of your life is the dream about?
 - ▶ Is it a positive or negative atmosphere?

Dreams

- ▶ What is one of the most notable dreams you have ever had?
- ▶ Have you ever had a warning dream?
- ▶ Have you had a spiritual encounter in a dream? (angel, demon, God, ...)
- ▶ Do you have a dream you want to share and see if God will give an interpretation?