

2) Disappointments and failures

Maybe you caught a glimpse of God's dream for your life but it ended up getting shattered. Maybe, you've stepped out, gave it your all, and things just didn't go like you expected them to go. Perhaps, you feel like you failed, or maybe that God failed you.

If you have experienced disappointment or failure as you have gone after God's dream for your life, don't let it make you feel as if you are disqualified from continuing to pursue God's dream.

3) Over-satisfaction

Another reason we can miss God's dream for our lives is because we get over-satisfied. Success kills more of God's dreams than failure does.

Question: *Why do you think it is so easy to get into a routine that keeps us from pursuing God's dreams?*

Question: *How do you know if you are slipping into the danger of being over-satisfied and therefore missing God's dream for your life?*

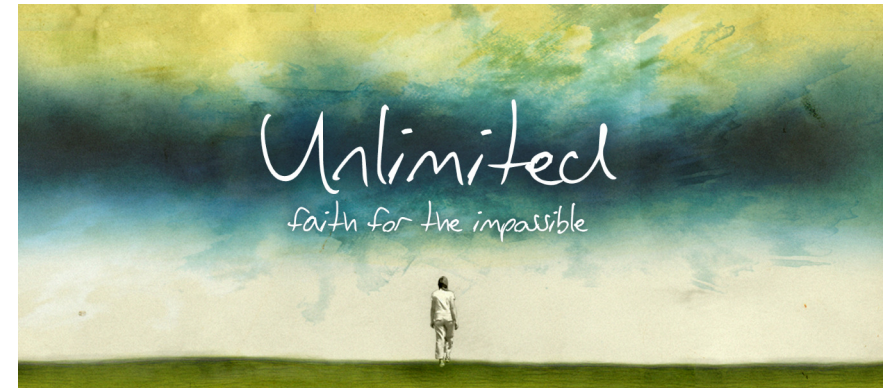
You know you are in danger of missing God's dream for your life due to over-satisfaction if you lack initiative to do something great for God. Once you know that God has put His dream in your heart then you need to have the initiative to step out and go for it.

Personal Application

What steps can you begin to take to allow God to dream through you? What can you do to begin to live out God's dreams for your life?

Prayer

Pray for each other, that God's dreams would come alive within the hearts of the people in your group. As the dreams come alive, pray that our community, region and even our world will be impacted. Also, please pray specifically for the families, communities and churches that are being affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.



Week 2 – Faith That Seizes

Announcements

A Life Made Beautiful - May 7-8 | Little Creek Campus
Small Group Training - Saturday, May 15 | 8:30am | Little Creek Campus
IDENTITY Junior High Camp - May 30-June 2 | Eunice, LA
Men's Breakfast - Wednesdays | 6:15am | Benedict's Restaurant
Newcomers Dinner – May 23 | 6PM | Benedict's Restaurant

Warm-up

When you were a kid what did you dream of doing when you grew up? Did that dream come true? Why or why not?

Sometimes dreams don't come true because they come from us instead from God. When we learn to recognize what dreams are from God then we can learn how to obey God and therefore experience the impossible.

Word

Usually when we see God work things out in seemingly impossible situations we also see God waiting for somebody to believe in Him

and begin to put action to their beliefs by obeying God.

Question: *Why do you think God often waits for us to put our faith into action before He steps in to turn an impossible situation into reality?*

Question: *What is the most challenging part about stepping out and putting your faith into action in order to see an impossible situation turn into reality?*

In the past, we have talked about making sure we grasp the fact that God is huge and that we were created in His image...God wasn't created in our image. Because God is huge, He has huge dreams for our lives.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Jeremiah 33:3

Question: *What do you think these two verses show us about the part we must play in seeing God's dream for our lives come to pass?*

We have seen that we must step out and partner with God in order to see the impossible become reality and to see God's dreams come alive in our lives. Now we are going to take a few moments and answer the question, "How do you know if a dream is from God?"

- 1) **God's dreams are always bigger than you.**
You can't complete them in your own power and strength.
- 2) **God's dreams are compelling.**
Once God's dreams get inside of you, you can't let go.
- 3) **God's dreams help others.**
The end result of God's dreams for your life is that they always lead to helping people.
- 4) **God's dreams are God-glorifying.**
God's dreams end up making His name famous. You can know if a dream is from God if the hero in the end is God.

Question: *After hearing these 4 ways to tell if a dream is from God, what one sticks out the most to you? Why?*

We have been talking about living out God's dream for your life and a great Biblical example to follow is Joshua. All Joshua had was a vision and promise from God that Israel was going to be given their "Promised Land." Let's take a look at an example from Joshua's life on how he partnered with God to see the impossible become reality.

Read Joshua 6:1-3

That's probably not the way Joshua expected to defeat the city of Jericho, but he trusted in God and believed that if God said He was going to give them the city, then all Joshua and the Israelites had to do was to obey.

Question: *Why do you think God asked the Israelites to walk around the city and blow trumpets instead of giving them a special military strategy?*

Remember, our job is to have faith in what God tells us. Our faith is lived out when we obey what God tells us to do. When Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God they saw the impossible turn into reality. You can also see your God-given dream come to pass when you step out in faith and obey God.

Joshua and the Israelites probably had their doubts about what God had told them to do. If they would have followed their doubts instead of what God told them to do then they would not have reached their dream. There are times in life that we can get hindered from reaching our God-given dreams. Let's look at 3 things that can hold us back from pursuing God's dream for our lives.

1) Fear

Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear plants questions in our mind that cause us to begin to doubt God's dream for our lives.

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

Question: *Can you give an example from your life where fear got the best of you and you didn't achieve God's dream for your life? How about a time that you overcame fear to achieve God's dream?*