



## The Process of a Dream

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### Overview

In this message entitled, *The Process of a Dream*, we will discover how God can fulfill the dreams in our hearts in His perfect timing.

#### Discussion Questions

From the first page to the last page of the Bible, we see the kingdom of God growing in the hearts and lives of people. Although God does not expect perfection, He does require progress. Even Jesus grew and developed in His life while He was here on earth. **“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52).** Today, we will look at the story of Abram. God called Abram into a relationship with Him and gave him a dream for his life.

#### The Process of a Dream:

1. God is the dream-giver.

**Genesis 12:1-3** says, **“Now the LORD had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”**

God called Abram, later named Abraham, out of the land of Ur of the Chaldeans. God tells Abram he must leave that land in order to pursue and fulfill His dream. Although Abram was 75 and his wife was 65 and barren, God called him to be a father of many nations. When God gives us a dream, it is always bigger than ourselves, and we need His help to fulfill it.

- Share a time when God gave you a dream, vision or purpose to fulfill.
- How do we know if the dreams in our hearts are from God or from ourselves?

2. Delays are always inevitable.

God spoke to Abram and yet time went by—and the promised child did not come forth. It is in this phase that we can get derailed unless we understand God's process in developing the dream.

**Genesis 16:1-4** says, “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. So Sarai said to Abram, ‘See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.’ And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.’

Abram and Sarai (later named Sarah) failed by taking matters into their own hands. They tried to speed up the process of God, resulting in creating an Ishmael. Delays are necessary because during the delay, God is building character on the inside of us. In the delay, He teaches us how to hear His voice, how to trust Him, and how to lean and depend upon Him. **Hebrews 6:12** says, “**That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**”

- Has God ever given you a dream that wasn't fulfilled right away? What did you learn in the process?

3. God's timing is perfect.

**Genesis 21:1-3,5** says, “And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac...Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.” It is important for us to remain faithful in the delay to stay properly positioned for God's fulfillment. His timing is always perfect.

- Why is it important to trust God's timing?
- Give an example of when you experienced God's perfect timing.

## Life Challenge

Do you currently have a dream in your heart from God? If so, continue to work towards your goal of fulfilling that dream by growing closer to God. If not, pray and ask God to give you a dream, vision, or purpose to fulfill.

## Prayer

*Thank You, God, for giving us Your vision for our lives and fulfilling the dreams in our hearts in Your perfect timing. Help us to remain content, patient, and grateful for where we are in the process. Amen.* Pray for the specific needs of the group.