

LIVING THE DREAM

First Minister | Discussion Notes

This week we're looking at what we do when we feel like our dreams are far off and we're waiting.

- Do you feel like you're in a time of waiting right now? If so, what for? e.g. a better job, a partner, end of lockdown etc.?
- What do you think it means to be 'good at waiting'?
- Philip explained that we can either respond in times of waiting by 1) saying "**When/then**" (e.g. when I get my dream job, then I'll be happy), or by 2) **letting go** and giving up on the dream. Which one of these do you relate to?

Read Genesis 39:20-23 and Genesis 40.

- What can we learn from Joseph about how to navigate times of waiting and challenge?
- In Genesis 39:20 and 23 we are told the Lord was with Joseph. When have you felt God with you in the waiting? How can we learn to know that He is near?
- How can we grow in **trusting God** at the moment?

Philip explained that when verse 4 which says, "The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them" literally translates as 'he ministered to them'. This is the same word used to describes the Priests and Levites later in the Bible and is the first time someone is called a 'minister'.

- How does this change the way you think about your workplace or university? What difference would it make for you to consider yourself the 'minister' there?
- What does serving people in the workplace or uni look like for you?
- Do you know people who really show God in these environments?

We see in Joseph that he cares for people holistically and also shows them God's love spiritually by interpreting their dreams, or as Philip said he **cared** and **shared**. You may want to get into breakout rooms at this point.

- Are you more confident at caring for others or sharing your faith in your workplace?
- How can we still do this during Covid?
- Take some time to commit to **one action** you're going to take this week to care for those around you or share with them the good news about Jesus.

Finally, we learn that Joseph ended having to wait for two more years after the cupbearer forgot about him. At the moment a lot of us need perseverance and need to trust in God to keep going. Remember, God is working in the waiting.

Get into smaller groups and pray for both of these things, or anything else that people would like prayer for.