



STUDY GUIDE – June 14, 2020 - GBB

Message Title: Horizon – Dream Again

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

As a child we knew how to dream.....what did you want to be when you grew up?
And/or..... Was there anything interesting surrounding your graduation experience from High School or other institutions?

Pray:

Thank you Jesus that we can come to you just as we are today, and we can empty out whatever needs to be left at Your feet. Prepare our hearts and minds to receive new vision, poured in by You, the creator of big dreams. Holy Spirit, help us to boldly look ahead to the horizon with new perspective that can only be found in You.

Get Started:

You were created for significance, not survival! -Chris Hodges

Survival is different than what we thought it would be. 'I can't live without my kids going to school. I can't live without sports. I can't live without...'" A life of significance looks different than survival. We get to choose how to live our lives - what we'll keep and what will go. We get to redefine. Basic survival has been redefined for us. Now we get to re-look at what significance means.

Think of Joseph in the Bible. He had a dream early on, but was sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers and then ended up in jail despite his faithful service to his master. Yet, he clung to his dream throughout his experience. We get to choose - right now. We can choose to go back to the way things were, but why not take this chance to choose what to integrate and dream a new dream. For Joseph, survival was simply the doorway to significance.

Read Genesis 45:1-15

- What does it mean to be faithful to God if we believe God has 'significance' in mind for us in light of the story of Joseph?
- Most of us can relate to living in survival mode. What is one step you can make today to shift your focus from survival to significance? Try writing it down and placing it strategically so that you make it a habit.

We have to begin to allow our minds to dream again. We have to let God inject our minds with a dream that can only come from Him!

Watch and Discuss video:

Read Philippians 4:12-14

Part of being able to receive something new, even in terms of vision, is being willing to leave behind the old or familiar.

- If we zoom in and zoom out, how does this verse apply both to our current situation/events and our larger transformation process in Christ (the stretching that occurs in becoming more like Him over a lifespan)?

Reflect and Commit:

Pastor Brian spoke of turning our dream into a prayer, "His prayer wasn't for survival. It was for significance. Pastor Brian spoke of turning our dream into a prayer, "The blessing of God comes with the promise of a new day, a better outcome, a re-envisioned future. There are dozens of examples in the Bible of people who - in some way - dreamed a new dream for themselves or their community or humanity the world around them. Did God always give them what they wanted? Of course not. But God DOES invite us into the process of creating a new world. And in order to get there, we have to allow ourselves to dream a new dream. This is not only allowed by God, it's encouraged in the pages of the Bible: Phil 4:6 says, "...in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6, NIV) Who says we shouldn't pray for what we want? I mean, ultimately, I want to grow to the place where I want exactly what God wants. But until then, I have permission to Dream Big.

Read Psalms 30:10-12

Read Isaiah 43:19

Read Proverbs 16:3

- Which of these verses can you envision turning into a prayer for your life? Share and then take 1-2 minutes to silently write down a dream turned prayer for your life based on the scripture.

Pray:

Dear Lord, we lay down whatever we have lost during this time, including any dreams that have been sacrificed, and everything that didn't go as planned. We thank you that we have seen You revealed during these times, and that we have learned to trust You more as a result. We know that we still have a dream in you, and we choose to look at the horizon that is still there and be changed by the glorious view we have in your Word.