



Week One | Grieving Expectations | 02.26-27.2022

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Series Recap: Loss is a regular part of life but we can forget that loss is not limited to saying goodbye to people. Learning to grieve helps us face lost expectations, lost relationships, and lost hopes helping us lead lives of freedom and forgiveness. Good grief starts with going to a good God who offers a better life.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What was a dream you had as a child that you are glad never became a reality?
- Digging Deeper: What dreams and expectations have most changed in your life over the past two years?

» Observation | Read Genesis 37

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | Broken dreams bring divine destinations.

(12 minutes)

- What is a dream that you need to release control of in your life? Can you trust God with that dream? Why or why not?

» When Dreams Divide | Reread Genesis 37:5-11; Acts 6:8-10, 7:51-8:1

(12 minutes)

- Joseph's dream angered his brothers, but his father "kept the saying in mind". What roles do wisdom and experience play when facing uncertain circumstances?
- Stephen was a man "full of God's grace", yet his words were pointed. How do hard truths refocus expectations?

» When Dreams Become Dangerous | Reread Genesis 37:18-24; Acts 9:1-18

(12 minutes)

- Reuben secretly wished to restore Joseph. Why would he not share this information with his brothers?
- Ananias had to overcome fear and doubt to heal Saul. How do fears and doubts affect ambitions today?

» When Dreams Drive Direction | Reread Genesis 37:25-28; Acts 9:18-30

(12 minutes)

- Reuben's plan changed when Joseph was sold by his brothers. How is shared grief different from silent grief?
- The disciples do not welcome Saul. Why is it difficult to embrace God's plan when it differs from our own?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What steps can you take to grieve expectations that have been lost or changed so you can appreciate where you are and what is next?
- Close by praying for one another to pay attention to the dreams you need to grieve from the past few years.