

DREAM KILLERS — JIM RALEY

CHAPTER 1:

DARE TO DREAM BIG

Genesis 37:3 (KJV)

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.”

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Joshua 1:9 (KJV)

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...”

INTRODUCTION:

“WE’RE GOING SOMEWHERE!”

My father taught me to dream by continually casting vision:

“We’re going somewhere!”

This means:

- Our past does not determine our future.
- Our present circumstances do not have the final word.
- God has a purpose beyond where we are today.
- We should look ahead rather than remain stuck behind us.

A dreamer learns to look beyond where they are to where God is taking them.

1. DREAMS ARE CONTAGIOUS

Not everyone will believe in your dream, but God will place people around you who will:

A. Be influenced by your dream.

B. Believe in the capacity of your dream.

C. Develop their own dreams because they watched you dream.

A God-inspired dream may require you to be **different**.

Sometimes being different isn't a problem; it is part of the preparation.

Your willingness to dream can awaken the dreams of others.

2. DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Big dreamers often do things differently from others.

Dreaming big requires courage to continue despite:

- Critics
- Obstacles
- Failure
- Disappointment

Michael Jordan — Was cut from his high school basketball team.

Abraham Lincoln — Experienced multiple political failures before becoming president.

A setback is not necessarily a stop sign.

Failure, rejection, and disappointment do not have to be the end of the dream. They can become part of the preparation for the dream.

3. VISION + FAITH = MOVING TOWARD THE DREAM

Hebrews 11:1

Hope is the blueprint.

Faith is the building material.

Hope gives us a picture of what could be.

Faith begins building upon that picture.

You have to start somewhere.

1. Dare to dream big.
2. Take a chance or accept a challenge.
3. Allow God to develop your courage and faith through the process.

Joshua 1:9

God told Joshua:

“Be strong and of a good courage.”

The reason Joshua could move forward was:

“The LORD thy God is with thee.”

Key Thought:

Faith does not mean you know every step. It means you trust the One who is leading you.

Ask yourself:

What is God developing or proving in my life through my willingness to dream big?

4. IT'S NOT WHO YOU ARE—IT'S WHOSE YOU ARE

1 Peter 2:9

We are:

- A chosen generation
- A royal priesthood
- A holy nation
- A peculiar people

It's not who you are. It's whose you are.

God is the power behind our dreams.

We are insufficient without His:

- Strength

- Leading
- Ability

A God-sized dream:

- Goes beyond our current mindset.
- Requires us to depend upon God.
- Is measured by God's Word and voice.
- Is bigger than ourselves.

If you can accomplish your entire dream in your own strength, there is a possibility that it is your idea rather than God's dream.

A God-sized dream causes us to depend upon God.

5. YOUR DREAM IS A GIFT TO SOMEONE ELSE

Joseph's life reminds us:

God's dream for you is rarely only about you.

Your dream can affect:

- Your family
- Your future
- Other people
- Future generations

Ask Yourself:

Who is counting on me to dream big?

Who could be affected if I stop dreaming?

Your dream may become somebody else's answered prayer.

God may place something inside of you that is intended to bless people you haven't even met yet.

6. DREAMERS CHANGE GENERATIONS

Think about dreamers who influenced the world:

- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Thomas Edison
- Martin Luther
- John Wesley
- Jonathan Edwards
- Smith Wigglesworth
- William J. Seymour
- Aimee Semple McPherson

Where would we be if these dreamers had quit?

Their willingness to believe, persevere, and act affected generations beyond their own.

Key Thought:

Your dream may reach farther than your lifetime.

CONCLUSION:

DARE TO DREAM BIG

A God-given dream is bigger than you.

If your dream only benefits you, it may not be big enough.

God's dreams have the potential to produce:

- Hope
- Provision
- Purpose
- Power
- Blessing for future generations

Ask:

Who will be blessed if I succeed?

Who will be helped if I obey God?

What might God accomplish through me if I refuse to quit?

“You can do whatever God sets before you to do. Faith will fuel it all.”

Don't allow:

Fear to kill your dream.

Criticism to kill your dream.

Failure to kill your dream.

Comfort to kill your dream.

DARE TO DREAM BIG!

WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE!

Ask yourself:

What is God challenging me to believe?

What dream has God placed within me?

How can my dream bless someone beyond myself?

What step of faith do I need to take?

What will I refuse to allow to kill my dream