

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TEACHING OUTLINE

September 15th 2026

International Praise

Understanding a Dream

Based on Jim Raley's "Dream Killers," Chapter 3

Genesis 37:8 — *"And they hated him the more for his dreams, and for his words."*

I. INTRODUCTION: THE REALITY OF HATRED

A. What Is Hatred?

- Hatred is **intense, passionate dislike**.
- It is **disgust and ill will** directed toward a person or thing.
- It is the **opposite of love** — love unites, hate divides.
- To be hated is to be viewed as an **enemy**, someone utterly unappealing.
- "Hate is a strong word expressing an emotional attitude... opposed, detested, and despised."

B. The Pain of Being Hated by Family

- It is one thing to be disliked by outsiders.
- It is far more painful when hatred comes from **your own household**.
- Joseph's story reveals how **dreams can provoke hostility**, even among those closest to us.

II. THE HATRED OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS

Joseph's brothers didn't simply dislike his dreams —

"They didn't just hate his dreams; they hated Joseph."

Their hatred manifested in several destructive attitudes:

A. Jealousy

- Joseph's favor with his father stirred envy.
- Dream killers resent what God gives you because it wasn't given to them.

B. Bitterness

- Bitterness blinds people to truth and magnifies offense.
- It poisons relationships and fuels destructive behavior.

C. Pride

- Pride refuses to celebrate someone else's elevation.
- Dream killers believe they deserve the spotlight instead of you.

D. Selfishness

- Joseph's brothers were self-centered, thinking only of their own position.
- Selfishness cannot tolerate someone else's God-given destiny.

E. Inflictors of Intentional Pain

- They plotted harm deliberately.
- Dream killers don't accidentally hurt you — they aim to.

F. Accusers (Emotional Abuse)

- They used words to tear Joseph down.
- Emotional abuse is often the first weapon dream killers use.

G. Liars

- They fabricated stories to destroy Joseph's reputation.
- Dream killers manipulate narratives to make you look small.

III. WHY DREAM KILLERS HATE DREAMERS

“Dream killers are consumed by jealousy... feel threatened... despise great destiny.”

A. Dream Killers Are Consumed by Jealousy

- They see your dream as a reminder of their lack of vision.
- Your dream exposes their complacency.

B. Dream Killers Feel Threatened

- God-sized dreams disrupt comfort zones.
- Dream killers fear losing control, influence, or position.

C. Dream Killers Despise Great Destiny

- They cannot celebrate what they cannot comprehend.
- Your destiny reveals their small thinking.

IV. WHAT'S A DREAMER TO DO?

Stay on the offense...GOD IS YOUR DEFENSE

1. Be Alert

- Recognize spiritual opposition early.
- Discern who is for your dream and who is against it.
- Not everyone can handle what God has shown you.
- Genesis 22:5 ... “you stay here...the lad and I will go yonder”.

2. Expect Opposition

- Every God-given dream attracts resistance.
- Opposition is not a sign you're wrong — it's often proof you're right.

3. Protect Your Dreams

- Guard your dream like Joseph should have guarded his.
- Share your dream selectively and wisely.
- Some people cannot handle the weight of your revelation.

4. Nourish Right Relationships

- Surround yourself with encouragers, not assassins.
- Destiny requires community — but the right community.

5. Stay on Course

- Don't let criticism derail your calling.
- Joseph's journey took him through pits, prisons, and false accusations — but he stayed aligned with God's plan.

6. Pursue With Passion

- Dreams require energy, commitment, and perseverance.

- Passion fuels progress when circumstances discourage you.

7. Press Through the Pain

- Pain is part of the process.
- Joseph's pain positioned him for promotion.
- Don't quit in the pit — God uses pressure to prepare dreamers.

V. ASK YOURSELF THESE 5-THOUGHT PROVOKING, YET REVEALING QUESTIONS

1. Why do God-given dreams provoke such strong reactions in others?
2. Which of Joseph's brothers' attitudes do you see most commonly today?
3. How can we discern who is safe to share our dreams with?
4. What dream killers have you personally encountered?
5. Which of the seven dreamer responses do you need to strengthen?

VI. ALWAYS REMEMBER

- **Your dream is a divine assignment, not a personal ambition.**
- **Opposition is inevitable but survivable.**
- **God uses adversity to shape dreamers into leaders.**
- **Dream killers cannot stop what God has ordained.**
- **Stay faithful — your dream will speak for itself in due season.**