

ADULT BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

DREAM KILLERS – “THE PIT AIN’T IT”

Genesis 37:24 – “*They took him and cast him into a pit... the pit was empty; there was no water in it.*”

1. The Pit Is Part of the Process, Not the Destination

Genesis 37:24

- A difficult season can be real, but it isn’t God’s final plan.
- We often confuse **where we are** with **where we’re going**.

Ask yourself:

- What do you do when your reality doesn’t match your dream?
- Joseph had dreams—yet experienced rejection, stripping, the pit, and slavery.
- Present circumstances do not define destiny.

2. Destiny vs. Destination

Scriptures: Genesis 37:14, 17

- **Destination:** Where you are right now.
- **Destiny:** Where God is ultimately taking you.
- Joseph’s destination became a pit, but his destiny remained intact.

Think about it:

- Why do we assume “Because I’m here, I must stay here”?
- Can a painful season be part of God’s process without being His endpoint?

3. The Pit Can Come Even When You’re Obeying God

Genesis 37:17–24

- Joseph was following his father’s assignment.
- Obedience does not guarantee ease.
- Difficult seasons do not automatically mean you missed God.

Identify the difference:

- What’s the difference between “I’m in a difficult season” and “I’m outside God’s purpose”?

4. What the Pit Does to Our Thinking

- Joseph likely asked: *Why am I here? What happened to my future?*
- Honest questions are not abandonment of faith.
- The danger: letting circumstances interpret God’s promises.

Change the pattern of your reaction to the pit:

- Where do you go first when life doesn’t make sense—God, people, yourself, or circumstances?

5. “Dream Killers”: Voices Around the Pit... (Pages 43-44)

- Many voices speak when you’re hurting—some helpful, some harmful.
- Humor examples: subjective, objective, Pharisee, pessimist, optimist, etc.
- Jesus’ voice is different: **“This is not where you belong.”**
- Ask:
 - “What does this situation say about me?” vs.
 - “What can God produce in me through this?”

6. Don’t Let the Pit Become Your Identity

- Joseph was **in** a pit, but he was **not** a pit.
- We often label ourselves based on seasons:

- “I failed; therefore I am a failure.”
- Scripture separates identity from circumstance.

7. God Can Give Rest in the Pit

1 Peter 4:14

- God’s Spirit rests on believers even in hardship.
- God is present in waiting, disappointment, rejection, transition, and the pit.

8. The Pit Is Part of the Process

Genesis 37:24

- **Process ≠ punishment**
- **Process ≠ destination**
- **Process ≠ wasted time**
- God uses seasons we would never choose.

9. Don’t Confuse Destiny with Destination

- **Destination:** today’s pain, limitations, circumstances.
- **Destiny:** God’s promises, purpose, character formation.

Answer these simple questions with reality, but yet faith:

- “Right now, I feel like I’m in _____.”
- “But I believe God is calling me toward _____.”

10. What Should We Do When We’re in the Pit?

- **Don’t deny the pit** – faith acknowledges reality.
- **Don’t make the pit your identity.**
- **Don’t abandon the dream because of delay.**
- **Don’t let other voices define your future.**
- **Look for God in the process.**

- Ask: “Lord, what are You teaching me here?”

11. At-Home Study Questions when you leave International Praise

Biblical Reflection:

- What happened between Joseph’s assignment and the pit?
- Why is destiny vs. destination important?
- What does Joseph teach us about unexpected hardship?

Personal Reflection:

- Have you ever been in a season that didn’t match what you believed God was doing?
- What voices get loud when you’re discouraged?
- How do you recognize biblical counsel vs. discouraging voices?
- What does it look like to refuse to let a season define you?
- Why might God allow a process we wouldn’t choose?
- What can believers learn in waiting?
- How can you encourage someone who feels stuck in the pit?

Conclusion:

You may be in a pit, but **the pit isn’t it**. Your circumstances are real, but they are not the final interpretation of your life.