

# | ANNEX DEVELOP LEADERS



**Luke 1:37 NIV**

**For no word from God will ever fail."**

## **I. God speaks first.**

### **Gen 37:5-11 Joseph's dreams.**

God shows Joseph what his domain will be and the authority he will receive from God for it.

Joseph's character must be formed in order to fulfill the task appropriate to his destiny.

### **Dreams**

1) binding sheaves in the field, Joseph's sheaf straightens.

2) sun, moon and 11 stars, bow down before Joseph.

God shows in the dream that Joseph will become a leader for his family.

## **II. The Lord goes to prepare**

Joseph is being prepared to save the people of Israel.

## **III. Testing**

An awkward situation has occurred in the family, right from the time Jacob got married. Jacob loves Rachel but gets Lea as a wife. Lea has children, while Rachel just cannot have children.

Gen 37:3 Jacob is already old when Joseph, Rachel's son is born.

Jacob loves Joseph more than his other sons. He gives him a beautiful outer garment in all kinds of colors.

### **a. Jealousy**

Joseph is the favorite of Jacob. He is given a special cloak.

Joseph is given a different position from his brothers at an early age.

He thinks he should share his brothers' bad habits with his father.

This puts him in a bad light with his brothers.

Lessons:

- for the brothers: how to deal with someone who is more "blessed," "used."
  - Beware of:
    - bitterness
    - hatred
    - envy
  - The answer is:
    - love
    - acceptance
- for Joseph: how to deal with success
  - Beware:
    - pride
    - arrogance
  - The answer is:

- Humility

## **b. Letting go**

**Gen 37:25-28**

The remainder of the story tells of Joseph being sold as a slave. Everything God foretold through the dreams seems to be going in the opposite direction.

Lessons:

- for the brothers: how to deal with someone who is blessed more than yourself
  - Beware of:
    - taking control yourself
    - not accepting Joseph's authority and destiny
  - The answer is:
    - acceptance and respect for Joseph's position
- for Joseph: how to deal with the contempt and hatred of his brothers
  - Beware of:
    - bitterness
    - revenge
  - The answer is:
    - forgiveness
    - becoming dependent on God

Like Joseph, we must sometimes go through difficulties to learn to forgive and trust God. From here the Lord begins to bless Joseph.

## **c. giving up your rights**

**Gen 39:2-7**

Joseph sold and treated like a slave.

Lessons:

- for Joseph: how to deal with the situation of being a slave.
  - Beware of:
    - bitterness
    - revenge
  - The answer is:
    - forgiveness
    - surrendering to the situation God has for him, learning to serve
    - gratitude for every day Joseph can serve
    - continuing to look to God and not compromise in trusting God

God's plan is gradually revealed as Joseph is given a leadership position in the household.

## **d. dealing with temptation**

**Gen 39:6-9**

Lessons:

- for Joseph: how to deal with temptation.
  - Beware of:
    - entering another's domain, even if it is forced upon you.

- Controlling one's own lusts
- The answer is:
  - do not give in to momentary pleasure
  - be reliable and respect the boundaries that are in place.
  - stay away from what is not yours and what will bind and destroy you

### **e. being falsely accused**

#### **Gen 39:20**

Joseph's suffering just doesn't seem to end. Even when things seem to be going well for a while, they get worse. Joseph is falsely accused of sexually abusing his boss's wife.

Lessons:

- for Joseph: how to deal with false accusation.
  - Beware of:
    - bitterness and resentment
    - revenge and taking the law into your own hands
  - The answer is:
    - forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness
    - giving up your rights
    - respond in the opposite spirit
    - let God fight for you

In Joseph's life story, we slowly see that the path of suffering also has a purpose. Joseph again finds himself in a special position. He gets to serve others. This brings him into contact with the king's servants. Through this he will later have an open door.

Lessons:

- for Joseph: how to deal with a difficult time that does not pass quickly
  - Beware of:
    - hopelessness
    - despair
  - The answer is:
    - forgiveness, forgiveness, forgiveness
    - look for the opportunities God wants to give
    - be of service in the place of that moment
    - keep looking for God's ways
    - patience, patience, patience which leads to hope

After this final test, heaven seems to open up and the slave, the captive is elevated into a top position. Joseph has always continued to use the gifts and talents until God brings him into freedom. Then Joseph is in the place where he can later save his people, his family, with a heart that is pure, without resentment.

Joseph had been a slave and a prisoner, but internally he was a free person.