

Way of the Nacho

Week 1 - Nacho Dreams

What is it that you really want to be when you grow up? I mean your dreams, what you would love to do, the thing that you think would make you the most happy, what is that one thing? Dream big on this one. I don't want to hear you want to be a garbage collector. Something like a nuclear physicist or a Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader. Let's hear them.

All of us at one time or another think about what we want to be when we grow up, where we will go to college, what kind of person we might marry, or where we want to live. It's natural to think and dream about those things, to dream about the future. The hard part, whether you are already an adult or still in Jr. High, is that making those kinds of decisions aren't easy.

As a Christian we are told that God has a plan for our lives. You read verses like Jeremiah 29:11 that says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" It's all through the Bible and we hear it in sermons and devo's all the time. But I have to tell you that I look at the first part of that scripture and see "FOR I KNOW," and I think, "Yeah, ok, God. You know, but how am I supposed to know."

Life would be so much easier if we could get a text from God every once and a while telling us what to do next. Or maybe if we had one of those GPS map finder things that could tell us where to turn next in our journey through life. Life would be so easy if it worked that way.

But life's not that easy. Christians we just want to do what God wants us to do, and for many of us that can be a difficult thing to know and understand. We want to know the plan that God has for us. We want it to be clear and for Gods' will to be what we want for our lives. Could you imagine being a monk and dreaming to be a Luchador?

Nacho Libre Clip: 00:00:34 – 00:03:03; 00:09:46 – 00:11:30

Nacho loved his life as a Monk, but he had dreams to be so much more. He wanted to be the greatest Luchador that ever lived, but I think he felt limited because of his faith.

Story of Joseph

Let me give you a little background to this story. There was a young man named Joseph and he was an Israelite. His fathers name was Jacob who was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham. Anybody have any clue who Abraham was. He was the one that God told to leave his people and go to the land I have prepared for you. Isaac was the one that God told Abraham to sacrifice, and now we are down to Jacob who is Isaac son, who is the father Joseph. Got that all programmed in.

Joseph must have really liked kids because he had 12 of them and Joseph was the 2nd youngest. Joseph had a problem though, and the problem was that his brothers didn't like him to well. How many of you don't always get along with your brother or sister? Yeah, that's what I thought. Siblings don't always see eye to eye, and Joseph was really hated by his brothers.

One reason that Joseph was hated by his brothers was because Jacob, their father, seemed to like Joseph the best. One day Jacob gave Joseph a coat that was a pretty incredible coat. It just screamed, "My father loves me the best." Imagine this: You have 11 other brothers and all your other brothers have been given a beater car as their first car. Just to put a picture in your head, check out this. Ok, so all your other brothers have been given this crappy car and now it is time for

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you to turn 16 and get your first car. You walk outside after you cut the birthday cake and there sitting in the driveway is a Cadillac Escalade with 22 in rims and all the extras that would make the guys on "Pimp My Ride" jealous. How many of you think your bothers would not have a problem with that? So there is strike number one against Joseph, but let me tell you about how Joseph made it worse.

Genesis 37:2-11 "2This is the story of Jacob. The story continues with Joseph, seventeen years old at the time, helping out his brothers in herding the flocks. These were his half brothers actually, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought his father bad reports on them. 3Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was the child of his old age. And he made him an elaborately embroidered coat. 4When his brothers realized that their father loved him more than them, they grew to hate him--they wouldn't even speak to him. 5Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. 6He said, "Listen to this dream I had. 7We were all out in the field gathering bundles of wheat. All of a sudden my bundle stood straight up and your bundles circled around it and bowed down to mine." 8His brothers said, "So! You're going to rule us? You're going to boss us around?" And they hated him more than ever because of his dreams and the way he talked. 9He had another dream and told this one also to his brothers: "I dreamed another dream--the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me!" 10When he told it to his father and brothers, his father reprimanded him: "What's with all this dreaming? Am I and your mother and your brothers all supposed to bow down to you?" 11Now his brothers were really jealous; but his father brooded over the whole business."

Joseph starts having dreams. Any of you guys have crazy dreams? These dreams tell him that his brothers are going to bow down to him. It would be like your brother or sister saying to you, "I am going to be better than you at everything, and one day I am going to be your boss and you will have to do everything I tell you to do." It just didn't go over well.

I wonder what Joseph was thinking during that time. He wakes up from his dream and thinks to himself, "Is that really what is next for me?" It sure wouldn't have made any sense to me. Joseph must have had tons of questions. It doesn't say that God gave these dreams to Joseph. He had to be torn. These dreams must have seemed real and the fact that he had two was very significant to the story. One time, just a chance thing. Twice, we're getting pretty serious now. There was something to them that didn't quite make sense. How would this come true? Is this really God's plan and dream for my life? Are these my own personal dreams? What's next?

I asked you at the beginning of this what you wanted to be, what your big dreams were. Today you have heard from two big dreamers. Nacho had dreams of being the greatest wrestler who ever lived, Joseph had dreams of being a great leader, and we all have our own dreams of where we are headed. How can our dreams fit into God's dreams for us? How do we line up what we want with what God wants?

God understands our needs, dreams, and the things that we want to be and do, but He wants us to keep the big picture in mind. The Big picture is a relationship with Him. If you could walk up to God and say, "What do you want from me," I think he would reply, "Just a deeply committed relationship with you." That's what God wants. He wants a growing, strong, healthy relationship with you. Yes, he is concerned with your future, but His desire is a relationship. That is what he created us for.

So look at it like this. As a Christian we are to have a relationship with God. As we continue to grow in our relationship with God, as we get closer to him, as we learn more about him through prayer and reading His Word we kind of get in tune with God. **When we get in tune with God our dreams become his dreams and his dreams become our dreams.**

This is only for an example, but let's say before you really wanted to be a professional hitman. Yeah, a hitman. So you have dreams to be the best hitman ever, and you dream that one day you will be presented with the award for the Hitman of the Year. It all sounds very exciting. Then one day you hear about Jesus Christ and what he is all about and it sounds a little interesting. So you become a Christian and start working on your relationship with God and you realize that suddenly you don't have the high and lofty dreams of being a hitman anymore.

That's the way this whole thing works. You want to know God's will for your life? Continue to develop your relationship with God and as you get closer to God your dreams, your goals, your decisions will be in tune with God's dreams, goals and decisions for your life. Yep, you heard it, God has dreams and goals for your life. He has things he desires for you to experience, enjoy, work through, conquer, and finish. **Remember that verse, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declared the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11) As you draw closer to God, those plans become your plans and what you have always dreamed for your life.**

I know you guys have a ton of things to think about. You have school work that you have to go home and finish and then make sure you have studied up for all your tests and quizzes this week. You have to make sure you have time for your friends and your family. All the sports and activities you have going on need a little attention too. In all that I need you to leave here tonight understanding that **God wants you to dream**. He wants you to dream some big, crazy, jaw-dropping dreams that seem impossible to make come true. You see God is in the business of making the impossible come true. He wants to see you do unbelievable things and accomplish everything you want to have happen in your life. And as long as throughout the dream fulfilling process you keep your heart close to God's, you can trust that those dreams really can become a reality.

I could leave it at that and you could leave here tonight knowing that if doing God's will for your future is something you want then your relationship has to be the priority. But I want to help you a little bit more. As you are praying for God's will in your own life here are some things that can help you and reassure you make those decisions.

1. *What do you dream to be?* What is it that excites you? What makes your heart beat faster? And I'm not talking about that guy or girl you have been thinking about. You'd think this was the easy part of the equation, but it can sometimes be hard to answer! Many people do not know exactly what they want to do or they have too many things to choose from. Sometimes we feel like the things we want aren't important. I believe that God has made each of you unique with certain dreams and goals, and that he can't wait to give us the things we desire when we seek Him.
2. *What am I equipped to do?* What things are you good at? Are computers your thing, music, athletics, math, drama, science, or home ec. We all have gifts and abilities, things we are good at, and Those are pretty good indicators to help us make decisions about what God wants from us. God's not going to call you to be a music teacher for elementary students if you are tone deaf and can only stand to listen to some death metal kind of music.
3. *What does the Bible say? What would bring honor and glory to God?* The Bible gives us insight to the character of God and shows us stuff that can help us in our decision process. God's will for our character, lifestyle, and relationships is revealed throughout Scripture and following these principles helps us to make good decisions.
4. *What support do I get from godly people I look up to?* "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22). Share your dreams and plans with your youth leaders, your small group leaders or other adults that you trust.
5. *What doors has God opened for me?* Sometimes God directs us through open or closed doors that seem to come from nowhere. When you're seeking God what may seem like chance is actually God helping your see part of his will.

6. *What is God saying to me? "Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying `This is the way; walk in it.'" (Isaiah 30:21). God is speaking to you; we just need to listen! Sometimes the answers don't come right away, but continue to listen and be ready when God answers.*

You have dreams, goals, and things you want to accomplish just like the rest of us. And you want to do the right thing. Nacho went through a ton of things before he became a luchador. Joseph faced so many challenges on his way to becoming the person God desired. Dream big, crazy, awesome dreams, stay close to God, and you'll know. You'll know where to go next.

"Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4)