

‘But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams.’

# DREAM

HOME LEAGUE

## Dream

Encourage members to share any memories they have of a dream.

Perhaps a childhood dream that they always remember.

Maybe a recurring dream.

Not all dreams are of the fairytale variety – often they can be our ‘worst nightmare’.

If you could decide, what dream would you have?

What’s your most usual dream?

Have you ever had a dream that continued the next night like a movie?

Can dreams become reality, or are they locked into fantasy by their very nature?

### The story of Susan Boyle – ‘I Dreamed a Dream’.

The surprising discovery of Susan Boyle’s powerful and moving voice immediately broke through the record books.

Some facts

Susan Boyle’s first album, I Dreamed a Dream, was released on 23 November 2009 and became Amazon’s best-selling album in pre-sales.

In only six weeks of sales, it became the biggest selling album in the world for 2009, selling 9 million copies.

In September 2010, Boyle was officially recognised by Guinness World Records as having had the fastest-selling debut album by a female artist in the UK, the most successful first week’s sales of a debut album in the UK, and was also awarded the record for being the oldest person to reach number one with a debut album in the UK.<sup>1</sup>

### The start of the dream

In some ways, Susan Boyle’s story is just the same as any woman with a voice in any choir up and down the UK. In her home town of Blackburn, she had been schooled in singing in churches and choral societies. She says now that, as a shy young woman with some learning difficulties, being hidden under the blanket of a collective singing arrangement offered her comfort.

So in one other, crucial way, her story is entirely her own. The most unlikely chorister in the sea of voices stepped out of line and put her head above the parapet to be noticed. For Susan Boyle, though she would never deign to say so much herself, this was an act of personal heroism, the like of which she had never contemplated before.<sup>2</sup>

### Giggles and Smiles

#### Woman of his dreams

A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

His mother had an idea: ‘Why don’t you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your apartment for a home-cooked meal?’

He thought this was a great strategy, and arranged a date for a week later. His mother called the day after the big date to see how things had gone.

‘The evening was a disaster,’ he moaned.

‘Why, didn’t she come over?’ asked his mother.

‘Oh, she came over, but she refused to cook...’

#### Car Dreams

A man went into his doctor’s office and says, ‘Doc, you have got to help me! Every night I keep dreaming that I’m a sports car.

‘The other night I dreamed I was a Ferrari. Another night I dreamed I was a BMW. Last night I dreamed I was a Porsche. What does this mean?’

‘Relax,’ says the doctor, ‘You’re just having an auto-body experience.’

#### Failed Dreams

A guy walks into a bar with a small dog. The bartender says, ‘Get out of here with that dog!’

The guy says, ‘But this isn’t just any dog... this dog can play the piano!’

The bartender points to a piano in the corner, ‘If that dog can play that piano, you both get a drink on the house!’

The guy sits the dog on the piano stool, and the dog starts playing. Ragtime, Mozart... and the bartender and patrons are loving it.



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Suddenly a bigger dog runs in, grabs the small dog by the scruff of the neck, and drags him out. The bartender asks the guy, ‘What was that all about?’

The guy replies, ‘Oh, that was his mother. She wanted him to be a dentist.’

## A Dream of a Quiz

Who dreamed of a ladder that reached up to Heaven with angels on it?

Jacob (Genesis 10:12)

Who had his future prominence revealed in a dream?

Joseph (Genesis ch 37)

Who dreamt of seven fat cows coming out of the river, followed by seven thin cows that were eaten up by the fat cows?

Pharaoh (Genesis 41:18-20)

Which of Pharaoh’s servants did not ‘rise’ to the occasion and came to a sticky end?

The Baker (Genesis 40: 22)

Who was given the promise of wisdom and many other riches by God in a dream?

Solomon (1 Kings 3: 5-15)

Who was the only person who was saved from the king’s anger among all the wise men who tried to interpret the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon?

Daniel (Daniel ch 2)

What encouragement was Joseph given in a dream before Jesus was born?

To marry Mary as he had planned as her baby was of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:24)

Who were told in a dream to change the route of their journey?

The Wise Men who visited the child Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew .2: 12)

Who was warned by his wife’s disturbing dream to have nothing to do with Jesus?

Pontius Pilate (Matthew. 27:19)

Who in a dream saw a holy city in a new Heaven and a new earth?

John the Divine (Revelation 21:1,&2)

Who had a dream that one day all men would be free and walk as brothers?

Martin Luther King

## Worship and the Word

### Scripture Reflection

There are so many examples all through Scripture of how God spoke to his people through dreams.

Sometimes he spoke directly to the individual, as Pharaoh was fore-warned of the famine in his dream (Genesis 41) although he needed Joseph to interpret it to him.

Or the time when God spoke directly to Jacob in his dream after he had killed his brother and was running away. God affirmed his relationship with Jacob by referring to the promise that he had made with his fore-fathers and by assuring Jacob that hHe wanted the same close relationship with him. Jacob may have run away from God, but God still had plans for his life.

God often gave the message for his people to a prophet in a dream in order that the prophet would deliver it with God’s authority.

### Numbers 12:6 (NIV UK)

‘He said, “Listen to my words: “When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.”’



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## A Modern-Day True Story

### God’s plan delivered in a dream

This is a true story of a young 17-year-old lad who was struggling to find direction for his career and his future. He was part of a loving Christian family and his own character was that of a gentle, loving boy who respected his parents and participated in church life with his family. He had a personal spirituality that helped him believe that God had a plan for his future – he just could not see it, nor did he have any hint what it might be.

He enjoyed music and participated in musical activities in his church and took private lessons to increase his own skills because somehow he felt it would be an important part of his life. However, in general terms he would have been described as ‘average’ both in academic achievement and in musical skills and abilities. In fact he often struggled with self-confidence and belief in his own abilities.

One night as he went to bed with all his concerns on his mind, he asked God for guidance with regard to his future in planning and choosing a career. As he lay there he asked himself the questions, ‘What am I good at?’ His own reply to himself was – ‘Nothing’. Then he asked the question, ‘What can I do?’ His answer was – ‘Play an instrument’ (two, in fact). That night as he slept he had a dream and saw himself marching up the Mall in London playing in the a Guards Band.

He told his parents of his dream. His father was very sceptical and discouraged any further development of his enquiry, realising that his son was a timid and very gentle lad. His mother, recognising that her son was actually facing a huge challenge, nonetheless encouraged him and assisted him in realising his dream. Although the result meant a great deal of personal pain both for the parents and for the young man, the young man subsequently successfully completed his training and found himself a Musician in one of the Guards Bands of the Royal Household Troops taking part in all the important ceremonial and official appointments in London and around the world. He had truly followed his dream. In so doing, he became a very positive influence within the band and found himself a mentor to many young men who followed the same profession and struggled with the sometimes difficult environment of military life.

It was by a dream that God revealed to Mary his plan for the world and the vital role that she would play in that mission. The result depended on her obedience in following that vision in spite of the difficulties that she would encounter within her family and the culture of her faith.

Similarly Joseph was reassured in a dream of the importance of his role in God’s plan and the necessity of his continued involvement in Mary’s life in order that Jesus could fulfil the prophecies of his birth and lineage.

For our part, we should encourage our young people to ‘dream big dreams’ and to explore God’s plan for them in how they envision their future.

But God still has plans for the older generation too. Our dreams may not concern our career, but they do point to our future. Our spiritual life is not confined to the limitations of our physical life. We have a bright and secure future in the life eternal that God has at the heart of his plan for all his children.

Allow your own heart to dream. See yourself in your celestial home where there will be no more suffering and no more tears and seek in your own heart to know more and more the Saviour who will lead you there.

For Susan Boyle, the fearlessness to dream about something other than the lot that life had handed her was the chance to escape – like the Old Testament stories of the Hebrew people who needed to find the new life that God had promised to them.

She and others like the young lad have had the courage to dream and then act on their dreams. So can you, and perhaps you will discover that God can take you to a whole new experience of hHimself that you had never realized possible.

## Suggested Songs

SASB		AFMSB
	‘Be thou my vision’	12
571 (v2)	‘Firm in thy strong control’	
357 (v4)	‘My Jesus, I love Thee’	64
371	‘Heaven came down’	68
847	‘Dare to be a Daniel’	

Major Helen Tyrrell

