

## DEFEAT OBSTACLES

DREAM  
BIG

## PRECEPT

## PSALM 37:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Be patient and wait for the Lord to act, don't get upset when someone gets ahead. <sup>8</sup> Do not be angry and frustrated. Do not fret. That only leads to trouble.

## LUKE 18:27

<sup>27</sup> What is impossible for people is possible with God.

## JOHN 16:33

<sup>33</sup> In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

## PROMISE

As we set our dreams this year, no matter how much we plan, we will face obstacles along the way. We will face things like delays, dead-ends, and difficulties. Booker Washington, an educator and author says, *"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."* Booker was born a slave and spent most of his early life in poverty. His family later moved to West Virginia, where he spent his days packing salt. To pay his way through school, he took a job as a janitor and persisted to become an educator and founded Tuskegee University. Booker is an example that the road to success is difficult and challenging, but the other side can be promising. Becoming successful in life entails overcoming obstacles.

**DELAYS ARE PREPARATION.** By nature, we want to get things instantly, we want everything to go according to our plans. We want our prayers to be answered right away and when God puts us in the waiting room, the battle begins in our minds. We are tempted to give up, run away from our dreams, or do things that might go against the will of God. We must know that delays are God's preparation for us; He is not working on our timetable but on His. Even when we don't see and feel, He is working. The great people in the Bible waited for many years for their dreams to come true. Great things happen to those people who wait patiently. He is also grooming us to be the person He wants us to be. As we are waiting, He is preparing the best for us.

**DEAD-ENDS ARE PROTECTION.** Dead-ends are not the end; they are detours, a redirection to a better destination. When we face what seems to be a dead-end, it is actually a call to a new destination, new consideration, new evaluation, or a new reflection. It's a call to improve, improvise, or try out something new. It could also be a call to trust God and let Him take the wheel. It could be disappointing in the beginning, but it is God's divine intervention. It does not make sense in some cases until we see and understand what lies ahead. The Lord is always after our character, so if it seems uncomfortable, He will be our comfort. When things are out of control, remember that He is in control.

**DIFFICULTIES ARE PRECAUTION.** Walt Disney, the world renowned filmmaker and theme park creator once said, *"All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me. You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you."* It's all a matter of changing perspectives. Let us change the way we look at delays, dead-ends, and difficulties. We must trust God, abide in Him, and He will get us through. If God placed those dreams in your heart, He will make it happen despite life's challenges. Psalm 34:19 says, *"The Lord's people may suffer many troubles, but the Lord saves them from them all."* As we look toward the rest of the year, let us pursue our dreams trusting God and allowing Him to work in our lives. With Him on our side, we can make it through all the difficulties we may face this year.

## PRACTICE

**1. Your Dreams.** What are some of your dreams? (Short-term and/or long-term). Share your answers to the group.

**2. God's Glory.** How can you glorify God with your dreams? How can you pursue them making God as your priority in life?

## PRAYER

## I. Marriages

- Pray for strong and healthy marriages: the bond of life & love, & the font of the family.

## II. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love and grace as we obey God in making disciples.

## III. Gospel

- Pray that we will consistently study the Gospel and share it to the people around us.

## IV. Leaders

- Pray for protection, provision, and security for our elders, leaders, & coordinators.

## V. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and may He establish the work of their hands always.

## VI. Family

- May all families experience breakthroughs & victories.

## VII. Life Groups

- Pray for the formation of more life groups in our church for God's glory.