

## ***I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life***

### **Unit 6: God's Dream**

#### **Lesson 4:** Desiring the Dream

##### **The Cave of Wisdom**

##### **The Burning Bush:** I really want this!

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of “Desire”. I can still hear my father telling me, “You’re not too old for your wants to hurt you!” Of course, during my teenage years, I was not thinking of pain, except for the discipline of the rod yielded by my mother. If the saying “spare the rod and spoil the child” is true, then I certainly was never spoiled! This discipline helped to shape the desire of my life: being in charge of my life.

While college was an escape from home for me, it was more in that it was the door to taking control of my life. I wanted this deeply and control of my life increased through college, military service, employment opportunities and my own family. I became “self-sufficient” with an “I can do anything” attitude. Until one day an accident put me in a hospital with a broken femur and pelvis. For six weeks I would endure the pain of being restrained to a bed in traction followed by six more weeks in a body cast. I was no longer in control. All body functions required the help of someone else. I learned patience and humility quickly! But most important of all, I learned to love the care givers and supporters.

These were wonderful, selfless people who actually cared for a stubborn, young, over-confident man. They re-directed my passion and the desire of my life toward helping others achieve their dream. And I've learned that what we desire with all of our heart does truly increase. I re-discovered the love of Jesus who had first come into my life at the age of 11. He was with me in the hospital and had been with me all the time ... I just didn't have the desire for him that he had for me.

While in the hospital, a fellow church member gave me the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and suggested that I read it 4 times a day for a week and it would provide comfort to me. It didn't take a week to be comforted! How could I miss "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to **lie down** in green pastures". These few words tell countless stories of the desire of the Father for us and his care and comfort available to us. Yes, sometimes we must be made to lie down in order to be reminded to look up and see him. The mountaintops of success are thrilling, but the valleys of comfort are the more desirable.

Begin now in your early years of life to cultivate your desire for the "valleys" where you meet God, receive his love and comfort, and love him in return ... because he first loved you! This is the true wisdom that is "more precious than rubies." Follow the instructions of Paul to the young Timothy: "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who

call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Eagerly desire wisdom and it will become “a tree of life” to you.

**God’s Dream:** Desire Wisdom

***Scripture: Proverbs 3:13-18; 1 Cor 12:31; 2 Timothy 2:22-23***

**Proverbs 3:13-18 (New International Version)**

- <sup>13</sup> Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,  
the man who gains understanding,  
<sup>14</sup> for wisdom is more profitable than silver  
and yields better returns than gold.  
<sup>15</sup> Wisdom is more precious than rubies;  
nothing you desire can compare with it.  
<sup>16</sup> Long life is in wisdom’s right hand;  
in its left hand are riches and honor.  
<sup>17</sup> Wisdom’s ways are pleasant ways,  
and all its paths are peace.  
<sup>18</sup> Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace it;  
those who lay hold of it will be blessed.

**1 Corinthians 12:31 (New International Version)**

<sup>31</sup> But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

**2 Timothy 2:22-23 (New International Version)**

<sup>22</sup> Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.

### **Biblical Character: Solomon versus Absalom**

Act the part of Absalom, the son of David, who desired more than anything else to be the King of Israel. Tell your story from the point of view of evil desire versus the desire for wisdom which Solomon placed first. Absalom expected to become king after his father. He loved to play the role of the judge in his father's place. But power can quickly corrupt the young mind. When rumor spread that David would name the child of another woman as his heir, Absalom saw it as his rightful inheritance being stolen by his father. He was easily persuaded by enemies of the king to lead an opposing army against David's forces. When his forces were defeated in battle, he fled the scene in fear and was caught in a tree limb to be slain.

Show the video "*King David Part 13 of 15*" which shows the rebellion of Absalom against David and his death.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFI\\_uDrMAvM&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFI_uDrMAvM&NR=1)

Show the video "Wise King Solomon: 2 women and the baby scene". The love of a real mother for her child made her willing to give up the child to save it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpDjR2Jtao0>

**Reality Character(s):** Various people comment on Wisdom: show the Youtube video “Wisdom Trailer - Wisdom Book by Andrew Zuckerman”. Discuss the meaning of wisdom.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BB41MLgoWk>

**The Tribe:** What you desire with all of your heart will increase ... even if it is bad for you! Love is to be our greatest desire. What do you desire with all of your heart? Is it God’s dream for you?

**Craft:** Add a heart shape for love to the stone plaque.

**Recreation Activity:** “Knowledge of the Word” team feud. Divide the class into two teams. Give the answer to a question about the Bible and have teams try to answer. If a team misses the question, go to the other team. Award one point per correct answer. After ten minutes, the team with the most points wins.