

# Connected

**Speaker:** Sue Allan

**Date:** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Talk title:** Hearing God Through Visions and Dreams

**Bible verses:** Job 33: 14-1 and Acts 2:17

## What are the main points?

- God has communicated through history with humans in visions and dreams as shown throughout the whole of the Bible and he still uses visions and dreams today to speak to us.
- There are 3 kinds of dreams: Life processing (the vast majority of them), Nightmares and God dreams.
- It is good to be open, expectant and to value dreams that may be from God – some of those will be powerful encounters, some of them will be God appearing ‘in disguise’ as a benevolent authority figure who comes to help you.

## Questions to prompt conversation...

- What did you find most helpful or most challenging from this talk/bible passage?
- Are there people in your group who could share their own stories about their own visions or dreams that they have found to be significant?
- Either: Ask, what dreams can you remember from the Bible stories you know? How did God use them?
- Or: Read Jeremiah 1- 16 and discuss the vision God gave him - How God gave Jeremiah pictures (What do you see?) and taught him to hear God through what he saw.

**1** The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. **2** The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, **3** and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile.

## The Call of Jeremiah

**4** The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

**5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew<sup>[a]</sup> you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup> “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

<sup>11</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”

“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching<sup>[b]</sup> to see that my word is fulfilled.”

<sup>13</sup> The word of the LORD came to me again: “What do you see?”

“I see a pot that is boiling,” I answered. “It is tilting toward us from the north.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to me, “From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land. <sup>15</sup> I am about to summon all the peoples of the northern kingdoms,” declares the LORD.

“Their kings will come and set up their thrones  
in the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem;  
they will come against all her surrounding walls  
and against all the towns of Judah.

<sup>16</sup> I will pronounce my judgments on my people  
because of their wickedness in forsaking me,  
in burning incense to other gods  
and in worshiping what their hands have made.