

## God Dream #1

**Person:** William Wilberforce

**Backstory:** William Wilberforce was born and raised in England in the 1700s. He was very ill as a child. A little later in his life, William fell in love with the Christian message. He also became a politician.

**Dream:** William's dream was to see slavery end. He believed that slavery was not what God wanted for people, and he acted to stop it. For years, he partnered with God on this dream. At the end of William's life, he saw an act to end slavery in Britain pass. Three days later, he died.

## God Dream #2

**Person:** Martin Luther King Jr.

**Backstory:** Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in 1929 in Georgia, USA. He grew up as part of the Baptist church. His father was a pastor and his mother was an organist and choir director. King was an African-American man at a time in the United States when black people were treated horribly by many white people. Races were segregated. That meant there were bathrooms, drinking fountains, schools, and more that were only for white people. Black people often got lower quality versions of these things.

**Dream:** As a pastor, King shared his dream to end segregation and live in a society where everyone had equal civil rights. This conviction was a result of his love for Jesus. King became the leader of a movement. He faced strong resistance from people who disagreed with him. He was arrested. He was mistreated. But he persisted. King believed in non-violent protest and resistance. He followed the example of Jesus. King made a major difference in gaining rights for people from all backgrounds in the U.S. He even won the Nobel Peace Prize. Unfortunately, King was killed before he was 40 years old. His legacy lives on and his God dream has become a dream that others carry on.

## God Dream #3

**Person:** Sarah

**Backstory:** One Christmas, Sarah's mom and dad received the "gift of clean water" from a family member. Sarah was confused about what it was—it just looked like a piece of paper! It took some explaining, but eventually, she understood that her family helped their sponsor kids every month, so they had clean water, but their friends didn't have the same help. World Vision needed money to provide clean water to more people. Sarah was energized!

**Dream:** Sarah asked her mom to take her to the money store, so she could buy more money and give it to World Vision to help people get clean water. That, of course, led to a conversation about where money comes from! Then Sarah and her mom came up with an idea: Sarah's fourth birthday was coming up, so she asked for money instead of gifts. That same week, they held a cookie sale at a church event. Between the sale and Sarah's birthday, she raised about \$200 to help other kids through World Vision.

## God Dream #4

**Person:** Phil

**Backstory:** Phil was born in the 1980s. His family went to church, and early in his life, he fell in love with Jesus. When he was four years old, Phil stood onstage at his church and pretended to be a pastor. Phil was a regular kid who went to school and loved sports. He also grew up being challenged as a follower of Jesus. Although he had ups and downs, Phil really wanted to partner with God in his everyday life.

**Dream:** From a really young age, Phil had a dream that God placed in his heart: to be a pastor. God encouraged Phil with this dream and placed key mentors in his life to direct him. When he graduated from high school, Phil went to Bible college. As soon as he graduated, Phil got a role in ministry. God gave Phil a dream and led him to it. Was it easy? No. Was it what God wanted? Absolutely!

# Amazing Life Stories

## Fran

Fran grew up in a Muslim family in Canada. She went to Islamic school, and faith was a big part of her life. When she was 17-years-old, she had a dream. In her dream, everything was black around her. Then, all of a sudden, there was a burst of light. She heard a voice say, “truth.” She woke up and wrote down “truth” on a piece of paper, and then went back to sleep. Fran knew that the truth was to love other people, but she didn’t quite know how to do that. She became friends with a Christian, and he said to her, “This is the truth. Find out for your self.” Fran found out that the pursuit of “truth” turned out to be a pursuit of Jesus. Fran believes that it was God’s voice that spoke in her dream to come to know “truth,” and now she has.

## Questions:

- Do you feel like you’ve ever had a dream that seemed to really hit you in a way you can’t quite explain? What was it?
- Have you ever heard of anyone else having a dream where it was like God was speaking to them? What was it? What do you think about this?

## Jenny

Jenny was only 4 years old when her family was having some big struggles: her dad had been in and out of the hospital, and there was a lot of stress at home. She and her younger brother had had a number of medical issues as well. Things were pretty tough. They had many family and friends praying for them. One night, Jenny had a dream that God spoke to her and told her how much he loved her and her family. He also told her to wake up and go and tell her mom and dad that he loved them. Right after her dream, Jenny woke up and went and told her parents about her dream and that God loved them. It was exactly what they all needed to hear.

## Questions:

- Does this story surprise you somehow? Why or why not?
- Have you ever heard another story like it? If so, what?
- Do you think this really was God speaking to Jenny in a dream?

# Amazing Life Stories

## Nathan

Nathan is in his forties, and has been a Christ-follower since his teens. He works as an academic and university lecturer. Throughout his life as a Christ-follower, Nathan has had a variety of dreams where he felt God reminded him of certain people that he needed to connect with. Each time, he has woken up and reached out to the people in those dreams. And, each time, those people have been in crisis or in need of significant encouragement.

### Questions:

- Does this story surprise you somehow? Why or why not?
- Have you ever heard another story like it? If so, what?
- Do you think this really was God speaking to Nathan in a dream?

## Grace

Grace has been a Christ-follower her entire life. As a teenager, she knew that God was trying to prepare her for the future. When she was 17, she had a dream where God told her to rely only on God and his protection. As Grace grew older, her job has required her to travel extensively and this message has been so important to her.

### Questions:

- Does this story surprise you somehow? Why or why not?
- Have you ever heard another story like it? If so, what?