

Home Run Life Series: Week 1

PK's teaching Notes

2.1-2.13

Week 1: Home Run Life

Wel to Home Run Life-wk 1: on the back of bulleting you'll find teaching notes w/ 4 Q's that can transform your life:

#1) What makes for a Home Run Life Dream? (Wt Bd) ... Everyone dreams of having a Home Run Life – but what makes for a great life dream? What are the elements? The most obvious is **SUCCESS** (when most of us are young, we dream of job, business, financial, sports, career success. We imagine that we rise up and achieve w/ accolades. One of the best commercials of Super Bowl 33 was from Monster.com (**PLAY**) ... it's backhanded sarcasm bc nobody aspires to small things, to strike out! ... So, go "Get A Better Job, Go get the success you dreamed of" ... Yet, Career & \$\$ success **is too small** to be a Big Dream – it's incomplete. *It may be the beginning, but it's never the end of your dreams, we always dream bigger ...*

SOMEONE – was always part of the dream: whether co-workers, team-mate, close friends, or the dream of a loving Marriage, Kids, family ... even if we've never thought about it this way – our life dreams always had someone else in them ... let me explain w/ a golf joke: *Success all alone is hollow ... Success w/o Someone is diminished joy~the longer you live – the more you want to do life w/ the people you love & who love you! But even that's not the end of our Life Dreams ...*

SELF-RESPECT: you may have never thought about it this way, but we always dreamed of looking in the mirror & respecting that person, we never wanted to drop our eyes in disgrace, we imagined a life dream where we could lead ourselves rather than be owned by appetites, a person of integrity. See, you know the truth about you – wherever you go, there you are ... If you can't respect yourself, it's a miserable life. *Rising to self-leadership is part of life's Big Dream ... but that's not really the end of it*

SIGNIFICANCE: – we want to make a difference ... more than empty success, we want to know our lives counted for something that mattered. Deep down, we all want to make a difference, not just a dollar!

Now That's A Big Dream ... A life of Success, Someone-RELAs, Self-Respect & Significance! ... that's a Home Run Life

...

But MOST of us struggle to get the Home Run Life Dream?

We get one or two elements and crash in the other area's ... Not unlike the experience of Luis Ramos. Over a decade ago – we tested a form of this Home Run Life teaching & like many of you, Luis ended up in the room.

Here's his story ... (Luis **PLAY** 1:30) Many of us never reach Home Run Life dreams because we have never learned HOW God Grows us up.

In Gen 37-50 is a great story & the 2nd of 4 Q's that can transform your life:

#2) What can we learn from Joseph's Life Dream?

For our limited time, let me highlight breakthrough moments along his journey. At age 17 he had a dream (a vision of his life from God). He was son of Jacob, grandson of Isaac, Great Grandson of Abraham. His father was a man of great influence and affluence. He had many brothers & eventually, together they become the 12 Tribes of Israel. But at age 17, he was his dad's favorite – he even had a coat of many colors, & his brothers were exceedingly jealous. And Joseph made it worse by bragging about being so special to his earthly father, and now his Heavenly Father (God) – he had a dream (Gen 37) Hey Bro's, "I'm Standing & your bowing to me" – Isn't that awesome? (nobody else likes that dream, but when it's us – we like it). God gave the dream, so Joseph can expect it to happen. Jesus promises in John 10:10 – Life to the full, so we expect it to happen. So, what happens next? ... thrown into a PIT (repeat)!

He's expecting to rise to success & he's tossed into a pit. His brothers take his coat, tear it, ram's blood & tell dad Joseph is dead. But the actually sell him into slavery (now we'll see what comes of his dream, us bowing to him) & Joseph is taken to Egypt & sold into a lifetime of slavery. Nobody comes to rescue him.

What on earth is God doing? ... (ever wonder that?) ... 30 yrs old, married 9 years, 4th yr of 12S & I had to humble myself and ask my wife to go back to work bc I was failing in business. (where is God?) He was w/ me/us – but it sure didn't feel like it. SO What if the answer is: God was helping us **WIN**

DEPENDENCE ... (same thing he's doing w/ you, with Joseph)

A Home Run Life Dream is accomplished by God's Game Plan & God's power, not Josephs. So to grow up Joseph, God had to strip him of Self-Reliance so Joseph could develop God-Reliance. STRIPPED Him of everything he would've depended upon! (family name, \$, coat, familiar, freedom, options)

*Note: Grow Up Humanly? Dependent to Independent! ... (When they are young and endearing you can't imagine them leaving, then he makes them teenagers so you can't imagine them staying)

Grow up Spiritually? Independent to Dependent!

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branch, if a man or women will remain in me (**Depend**), you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing".

Next major breakthrough in Joseph's life? A Major Temptation!

He's been a slave in Potiphar's house for 5-7 yrs, he's 22-25. Nobody is coming & he's risen to overseeing the business affairs, & Potiphar's wife offers a sexual affair – indecent proposal. This was the defining moment to **WIN WITHIN** - Can't help that you are a slave on outside, but can on inside? ... will you be a slave to your appetites in life, or will you be a person of integrity? Life's greatest battles are not around us- they are within us. Joseph, can you lead yourself or will you crash your character?

Joseph did the right thing – "*I cannot sin against God nor another man by taking his wife*" – he was becoming God's man. (O, and for doing the right thing – he was thrown in prison. We feel like that – U did the right thing & lost instead of won – ah, but God's not done!)

Next major breakthrough in Joseph's life? Rela/People! **WIN w/ OTHERS**

Joseph is the slave on his hands/knees cleaning; important people walk by & he's dismissed! Perhaps it occurred to him; I was once important, I walked about my Fathers household w/ my coat of many colors like I was to be honored, Hmm, there were servants I never noticed. I treated my brothers as lesser people ... no wonder they got rid of me! Just maybe God was teaching Joseph to **VALUE OTHERS... It's Re-defining when you become the person you once dismissed!** (PK -21-26 some success w/ a previous ch growing & a subtle dismissal of Pastors lding small ch's – if they'd just work – it would grow, not that hard) – Then 4 yrs of going no-where & God reminds me of my dismissal of Pastors Sm Ch's – I am one. Clarifying!

Maybe God has you in places where you feel humbled, working w/ people you don't want to work w/ or more ... what if he's growing you up to change how you Value Others? ... bc if you don't Value them, you will tend to use them.

BTW– we know Joseph was transformed bc at the age of 39 (22 yrs after his brothers sold him into slavery); they bowed before him! Yep, & all he had to do was give the word & they would be executed. Instead, he executed forgiveness. He valued others even tho they did not value him.

Next major breakthrough in Joseph's life? career success; **WIN RESULTS**

Joseph was in prison for many years ... suffering, serving, begging God to free him ... and at age 30 (13 yrs of pits & prison) Pharaoh, the most powerful man on earth in Joseph's day – had a dream. (From God) – nobody could interpret. Joseph can – so he's brought up.

Can you? (he says NO, but God can – 'dependence')

7 yrs feast, 7 yrs famine. More than the problem; he give solution!

In one day – rises from prison to palace! Second in command! Wow!

He's now standing & others are bowing! Curious!

So, 7 yrs feast, & 2 yrs into Famine – age 39, a group of men come from the territory where he grew up, BC only Egypt has food – they come to buy food and they bow to the 2nd in command = Joseph. Wow, the dream realized – in only a way God can make happen ... in short: he reveals himself as Joseph, the bro's are terrified – he forgives and says, God meant it for good, for the saving of lives **Fulfill Purpose (Significance): I was put here to make a difference** – They become the Nation of Israel – the family line of Jesus – the Messiah! 16 min

Begs the 3rd of 4 Q's that can transform your life: #3) What is the Pattern? (God's Game Plan for Life & Leadership?)

Joshua, my first born was 11 year old & I realized I did not know how to disciple him in a way he could understand. I had all kinds of understanding, but it was all so complicated ... and I sought for a way to teach him God's game plan for life dreams ... by now, it may be obvious to you. Baseball ... something he could play and understand as a kid, but it's the same game that challenges pro athletes in a billion dollar industry. It's simple to understand and a lifetime to learn at higher levels.

And the idea of a **pattern** was important as God was driving **Romans 12:1-2 into my soul (bibles, page 1137)** ... there's a pattern for the world & a pattern for how to find God's will and get a home run life.

(Insert BB)

So here is the HOME RUN LIFE pattern ...

Home Plate (start/finish)	Connect w/ Creator (God's Purpose by God's Power) (Win Dependence)
------------------------------	---

BTW- you may be listening to me, but be quite unresolved in matters of faith – not sure you CONNECT – still, we all have to settle, where did I come from, why am I here & where am I going. Where Start & Finish!

1st Base Character (the personal base); Win w/In
We come to faith in Jesus & begin to pray, O God, change my circumstances –Job, my income-need more, my boss-need less, my Spouse-I had not idea what I was marrying, my kids-bc they have too much of my spouse in them, change my house – my stuff - but the first thing the power of God is designed to do; is change you! To change things within you not around you. Deal w/ the things that are crashing your character & taking you out of the game!

2nd Base Community (the people base): Win w/ Others
1st & greatest com? Love God w/ all; love your neighbor as yourself!

3rd Base Competence (The performance base): Win Results
3rd Base doesn't add to the score! Leverage it for HP (Purpose)
>... **gotta live for something greater than your 'self' or empty success ...**

Ultimately for Good & God's Glory!

Love God, Love yourself, love neighbor as yourself, love what you do & do all for the glory of God. 8 min

*Here's the insight that **hooked me**> if that's God's pattern, what is the pattern of this world? (the thing to which we should NOT conform?)*

The world runs the bases backwards ... we live in a performance based/ driven material world – your value is in what you DO (defined by career; trophies & stuff)

We live life backwards ... Run to 3rd base ... **Huge PRESSURE** to perform... so we end up **CHEAT the other bases** ... cheat our rela w/ Spouse, Kids, Family, Fds to succeed; we cheat our character & integrity to succeed, we cheat our creator of time, worship & glory to get material success & we lose the Bigger Dream ...

What if the Pattern of this World is costing us the Home Run Life?

That's what got the attention of Luis Ramos back in 2001, in his own words, here's the rest of his story (Luis **PLAY** 2 min) 5 min

Seems True over the long haul: ("WORLD" does life backwards)

Run to 3rd base for years to get success & we blow up a marriage or two or three, & distance from kids & get used to performance over relationships

After we gain enough success (and it proves to be *less fulfilling*) we move into our 40's or 50's & confess, relationships matter - & commit to a marriage & refuse cheat it – we make that one work; & we want to FIX broken rela & restore w/ estranged kids or grandkids ...

On into our 50's - 60's and we start saying, "Character matters – the truth matters – honesty matters, discipline matters, love – 1st base!

And in time, the truth of mortality settles in 70's – 80's or final years, you know what? There might be a God? Last Nov. 2013 Our own ATL based CNN Mogul, Ted Turner, turned 75 – the article states, *the outspoken agnostic who had formerly described Christianity as "a religion for losers" recently reaffirmed his openness to the religion; he no longer considers himself an atheist, and prays for sick friends ... he closes, Well, I sure don't want to go to hell.*

Begs the 4th of 4 Q's that can transform your life: #4) How do you run the bases of life? (How will you?) 3 min.

Pray! Father, many of us must confess what Luis confessed years ago, we are running the bases backwards and it's costing us: we're losing our soul, we're cheating our character, we're getting called out in our marriage & family & rela & career is suffering. So we also seek a fresh start, a reboot ... perhaps many of us have drifted from your game plan for life and we will have to rededicate ourselves to you. Please do this work inside us and renew our minds & so transform our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen!