



Monday Men's Bible Study

Mark Batterson — "Gradually Then Suddenly"

June 1, 2026

Inspired by Chapter 11 – "Dream Factory" from Gradually Then Suddenly by Mark Batterson

Foundational Text (NLT)

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." — Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

Introduction

Every man carries something on the inside of him that has not fully come out yet.

There are dreams God planted in us years ago that life tried to bury under disappointment, responsibilities, fear, failure, pressure, grief, and survival mode.

God never created men merely to survive. God builds men with vision, purpose, and holy imagination.

One of the dangers of manhood is becoming productive without becoming purposeful. A man can work every day and still feel empty because labor without vision becomes exhausting.

Tonight is about waking dormant dreams back up.

Not selfish dreams. Not ego-driven dreams. But God-given dreams.

One of the tragedies of life is not dying young — it is dying with the dream still trapped inside of you.

Theme Thought

"God never intended for your current reality to become your final identity."

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Point 1 — God Often Gives The Dream Before The Details

Scripture: Acts 2:17 (NLT)

God specializes in showing men glimpses before He reveals the blueprint.

Joseph saw the dream before he saw the pit.

David was anointed before he sat on the throne.

Moses heard the call before he confronted Pharaoh.

Faith does not require full explanation. Faith requires obedience.

Discussion:

- What dream have you stopped talking about?
- What have you allowed disappointment to talk you out of?
- Where have you become practical instead of prayerful?

Point 2 — Every Dream Will Be Tested

Scripture: Genesis 39:2 (NLT)

Joseph had the dream, but then came betrayal, isolation, temptation, false accusations, prison, and delays.

Every God-given dream goes through pressure before promotion.

God develops the man while preparing the mission.

The delay is not proof the dream died.

Africentric Illustration:

Our ancestors dreamed of freedoms they would never personally see. Yet they kept building, marching, praying, and sacrificing anyway.

That is kingdom manhood.

Point 3 — Your Dream Must Become Bigger Than You

Scripture: Habakkuk 2:2 (NLT)

God never gives dreams merely for personal applause.

Kingdom dreams bless families, communities, and generations.

The deeper question is:

“Who becomes better because I obeyed God?”

When a man discovers purpose, he stops wasting time on small living.

Practical Challenges For The Men

1. Write the dream down.
2. Pray over it daily.
3. Take one practical step.
4. Stop speaking defeat.
5. Surround yourself with men who build.

Contemporary Illustration

Tyler Perry lived in his car before building a studio empire.

Deion Sanders often speaks about believing in what God showed him before others understood it.

Dreams look foolish before they look fruitful.

Discussion Questions

1. What dream have you buried because of disappointment?
2. What fear has slowed your obedience?
3. What practical step can you take this week?
4. Who benefits if you fully walk in your purpose?
5. How do men remain hopeful while waiting on God?

Closing Challenge

Men, God did not preserve you this long just to maintain routine.

You survived heartbreak, pressure, mistakes, failures, losses, setbacks, and spiritual battles.

And after all of that... you are still here.

The dream may have been delayed, but it was not destroyed.

Perhaps tonight God brought you here to remind you:

“Do not die with the dream still in you.”