



REN 310 - 3 credits

Wisdom Through Dream Interpretation

Description

Psalms declares that God counsels us at night through our dreams (Ps. 16:7). The dreams in the Bible illustrate this principle, and all of us can learn to hear from God during the two hours of dream life we have each night. In this course, we will examine all 50 dreams of the Bible seeing how God interprets the symbolism and speaks to His children through their dreams (Num. 12:6; Acts 2:17). Prerequisite: REN103 Communion With God.

Texts

Christian Dream Interpretation audio cassettes by Mark Virkler

Hear God Through Your Dreams Study Guide by Mark and Patti Virkler

Dream Interpretation by Herman Riffel

Christian Dream Interpretation Audio/Video Guide by Herman Riffel

Christian Dream Interpretation audio or video series by Herman Riffel

Dream Dreams by Steve and Dianne Bydeley

Objectives

Academic

- You will quote the following verses:
 - ✓ Acts 2:17 KJV
 - ✓ Psalm 16:7 NIV
 - ✓ Numbers 12:6 NIV
 - ✓ Daniel 2:29, 30 KJV
 - ✓ Job 33:14-18, 29, 30 NASU
- You will discuss the physiology of dreams.
- You will discuss seven reasons why we should listen to our dreams.
- You will describe the language of the dream and the sources of this language.

- You will state the source of the setting of all dreams.
- You will state the biblically defined purpose of dreams.
- You will state three things we must do to keep from losing what God has for us, particularly through the dream.
- You will discuss at least three reasons why people do not remember their dreams.
- You will discuss the purpose of repeated dreams and what to do about them.
- You will discuss how to discover the meaning of the symbols seen in one's dream.
- You will discuss the usual symbolic meaning of animals in one's dream.
- You will state why children's dreams are important and should be taken seriously.
- You will state the probable meaning of people who appear in dreams.
- You will state the question that must be asked about people who appear in dreams.
- You will state why it is important to discover who the people in your dreams represent.
- You will state the usual meaning of pregnancy and birth in dreams.
- You will state the usual meaning of death and resurrection in dreams.
- You will state God's ultimate purpose of dreams.
- You will state a definition of "the Persona".
- You will discuss the usual way in which the persona is revealed in the dream.
- You will state the meaning of shadow figures in dreams.
- You will discuss the proper response to the shadow figures of the dream.

- You will discuss the purpose of dreams about people of the opposite sex.
- You will discuss the generally accepted masculine and feminine traits, how they are usually expressed in men and women, and balanced and unbalanced expressions of them.
- You will discuss the usual meaning of sexual dreams.
- You will describe the meaning of the “aha” moment.
- You will list at least seven principles of dream interpretation.
- You will define each of the following terms:
 - ✓ dream
 - ✓ vision
 - ✓ metaphor
 - ✓ simile
 - ✓ metonymy
 - ✓ idiom

Attitudinal

- You will appreciate the significance the Bible places on dreams in the communication of God to man.
- You will recognize the role of symbols in the dream.
- You will honor the voice of God through the dream.

Behavioral

- You will listen to your dreams and seek the Lord for the interpretation of them.
- You will act in response to the messages of your dreams.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, “C” or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least “B” (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a “B”.

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- “D”
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- “C”
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- “B”
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- “A”
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

Course Requirements

1. Listen to the entire series *Christian Dream Interpretation* by Mark Virkler. Follow along in the introductory material of *Hear God Through Your Dreams* Study Guide, taking notes as you listen.
2. Complete the text *Hear God Through Your Dreams* by Virklers as assigned. Read all biblical references and fill in all blanks. (Note: After each biblical study you are asked to record truths concerning dreams and visions that you discovered from that particular passage. You are not expected to discover something new in each and every one. However, you are expected to be open to the Spirit's teaching and regularly be learning new insights.)
3. Completely read *Dream Interpretation* by Riffel as assigned.
4. View the entire video series or listen to the entire audio series *Christian Dream Interpretation* by Riffel. Use the audio/video guide to follow along and take notes on the teaching.
5. Beginning in Lesson Three, keep a journal in which you record your dreams and the interpretation you receive from God. If you tend to remember your dreams every morning, you may choose to record only those of special emotional or spiritual impact. You should be recording at least two dreams per week, and more if you would like.
6. Read *Dream Dreams* by Steve and Dianne Bydeley and write a paper summarizing the authors' beliefs about dreams and their place in the Christian life. Discuss your response to the teaching of the book and ways in which the Spirit gave you revelation through it. This paper should be a minimum of four typewritten pages, maximum 12-point font, and is due in Lesson Ten.
7. Submit a paper discussing what you have learned about yourself and the way God speaks to you through your dreams. Use specific references from your dream journal. This paper should be a minimum of four typewritten pages, maximum 12-point font, and is due in the final lesson.
8. Earn at least a "B" on Test One and the Final Exam.



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Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Listen to cassettes 1 - 3 of *Christian Dream Interpretation* by Mark Virkler, following along in the preliminary material of your Study Guide as directed on the tapes. Take notes and highlight important points in your Study Guide.

Memorize Acts 2:17 KJV.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Defining Dream and Vision

Why Listen to Our Dreams?

How to Recall Your Dreams

Foundational Principles of Dream Interpretation

Understanding Dreams About Yourself

Understanding Dreams About Others

Related objectives:

- You will quote Acts 2:17 KJV. ("And it shall come to pass in the last days," saith God, "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.")
- You will define dream and vision.
- You will discuss the physiology of dreams.
- You will discuss seven reasons why we should listen to our dreams.
- You will state five actions you can take to increase your ability to recall your dreams.
- You will state seven foundational principles for interpreting dreams.
- You will describe the process for understanding the meaning of dreams about yourself.
- You will discuss the meanings of people, animals and numbers in your dreams.