



*You are a*  
**WOMAN**  
*of Destiny*

Book with Study Guide

Lisa Cook

10 Keys to LIVING your God-Inspired DREAMS

You are a WOMAN of Destiny!



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are a  
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*of Destiny*

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# **You are a Woman of Destiny!**

## **10 Keys to LIVING your God-inspired DREAMS**

**By Lisa Cook**

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February 2017,  
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*Dedicated to-*

*Dreamers...*

*Especially women who have dared to dream  
with Jesus to make the world a better place.*

*My husband, Chris, who has bravely entertained  
and even celebrated the big and small dreams  
I carry in my heart.*

*The ministry team of "4 His Beloved"  
who continue to courageously dream  
with God's heart for women.*

*My children, all children, who through  
our willingness to dream BIG with God  
will have a legacy to build  
their own dreams upon!*

*But as it is written:*

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

*1 Corinthians 2:9*



10 Keys to LIVING your God inspired DREAMS!

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# *Introduction*

“Do not grow weary in well doing, for at the proper time you shall reap.” These were the words that awoke me from a dead sleep at the crack of dawn that early October morning in 2004. The voice was so clear it sounded almost audible, but I knew it wasn’t. I also knew it wasn’t my voice but the voice of God! An unmistakable promise was delivered from the throne room of heaven, a promise that still touches a deep place in my soul to this very day. At the time, I had no idea of the implications this Word held for my life and how it would prove to be an anchor for my soul in the days that followed. A time when the enemy would seek to rip from the very fabric of my life the dreams and hopes I held in my heart for my marriage, my family and my calling. Using every available means, the enemy would deal me a hand that spelled certain destruction. But God (one of the sweetest word combinations in our vocabulary) had a Master plan for a masterpiece. His promise spoken clearly to me that early Fall morning was an invitation to “believe.” This promise comes from Galatians 6:9.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”  
Galatians 6:9

The actual verse adds one small condition, “if we faint not” or in other words if we don’t give up! This book is about not giving up! Believing God for the fulfillment of your God-inspired, God-authored dreams no matter how impossible, unlikely or ridiculous they may seem.

Can I let you in on a little secret? Every moment of every day I carry a giant-sized dream in my heart! I can trace it back to an encounter I had over fifteen years ago. A surreal moment in time, when I was traveling home from a 3-day woman’s retreat. It was there on my drive home alone, as I was worshipping God for a beautiful weekend, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper something magnetic to my heart that awoke a dormant desire. Something that caught me completely off-guard yet invigorated me with wide-eyed wonder! This simple whisper gave me a sense of a unique yet grand and glorious purpose!

Initially, I thought it was too good to be true, too much to hope for, you know; ridiculous! Not that the Holy Spirit was ridiculous, just my interpretation of what had been communicated. But I have since come to realize that my limited ability to envision what God desires to accomplish in a lifetime is what's ridiculous.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” Ephesians 3:20-21

The dream, God's destiny for my life, has only become more vivid and clear with the passing of time. On any given day at any given time it is very near my conscious thoughts, helping to inform the decisions I make and direction I go.

I've heard it said, and maybe you have too, “people will live and die by vision.” If the vision is clear and relatable people will go “all in,” sometimes even to the radical point of death. But most won't even lift a finger for lack of clarity. Vision is powerful! This is probably why so many books have been written about vision in recent years. What you may not realize is that vision originated with God. It is His BIG idea.

*‘I am God and there is none like Me.  
I make known the end from the beginning,  
from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say, ‘My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.’*

Isaiah 46:9b-10 (NIV)

A mere glance at Genesis chapter one tells us the heavens and the earth were created and shaped by vision. Our very existence is the result of God's personal vision! He is a visionary who has created us in His likeness. Make no mistake about it; the Lord wants His people living with a future focus and an end-game in mind.

You ARE a woman of destiny! Which means you were fashioned by God to live with a clear and unique purpose. An unparalleled, distinct purpose that is meant to cast a vision of possibilities for your life, giving you the confidence to go forward taking great strides in faith.

Recently, my husband and I discovered a program on Netflix that I absolutely fell in love with. We don't have cable television, so periodically we will search through Netflix to find

a good series or program to watch. This particular search led me to “Foyle’s War.” It’s a BBC program that began airing in 2006, that I somehow managed to remain ignorant of until the past couple of months. Set during the time frame of World War II, it seems to depict the mood of the nation accurately. Among other things, it helped me to think about World War II from the British perspective. The essence of this program is about a man by the name of Christopher Foyle, who is a detective for the police department during the second World War. He solves crime mysteries, mostly murders among civilians. One of the things that struck me, in watching this series, was the outright commitment and enthusiasm of many individuals living in that country, during that time frame, who possessed a strong conviction to do “their part” in the war effort. The reason there was such a strong consensus about contributing to the war effort, about each person doing “their part” skillfully and faithfully, was due to a clear sense of vision about not only *what* they needed to do but *why* they needed to do it. Most of the people were in agreement that Hitler and his objectives were an evil they did not want and could not risk leaving to its own. It was an evil they knew had to be stopped, and it would require everyone doing “their part.” The vision of going to war against Germany was evident, in that they understood not only the “what” but they also understood the “why.”

God wants your life to be lived intentionally with a why, a what and even an unfolding clarity of how! My prayer and goal for this study are that you would embrace with confidence your God- given “why” and “what,” on an unfolding pathway of “how”!

Proverbs 29:18 says *“Where there is no vision the people perish.”*

One description for the word perish in the original language is: “go back.”

When there is no clear vision, we tend to go backward or retreat when things get challenging. If you don’t have a clear sense of vision about what you are doing, why you are doing it, or what you hope to achieve, it’s easy to cash out. We are motivated by vision and without it, we can easily become lukewarm or stagnant in our overall approach to life. Whether you realize it or not, God designed you to be motivated by vision. In fact, we often exercise vision in simple ways every single day:

- We put gas in our car because we have a vision of going places.
- We brush our teeth because we have a vision of not having bad breath.
- We spend time styling our hair because we have a vision of looking nice.
- We make plans to dine out because we have a vision of eating a delicious meal.

- We save and plan for vacations because we have a vision of having a fun adventure.

We live out of vision every day while often failing to develop a long-term vision for our lives.

But if you stay with me throughout this study, I am believing God will bring some fresh vision for your life!

Without question, there is a war going on. The Bible tells us "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). The vision God has for your life is part of heaven's mission. He has called us as his people to be on mission together, each one doing their part in the war effort. This is the big WHY of the vision God has for us. A bold and audacious purpose of redeeming a world held under the sway of the evil one. But there is also a unique why for us as individuals, as ministries, and as churches.

Your unique "why and what" is God's vision for your life in fulfilling His mission. God has a vision for your life that is part of a grand and glorious rescue mission. Something that He planned for you before the ages began. And I believe, through this study, He wants to fully awaken you to His vision for your life so that you will stay on course and go the distance. Realizing your greatest potential in Him!

# Chapter One

## *Awaken to the Dream!*



If you currently feel like your life is visionless, I have good news! The vision that God has for you was seeded into your heart, written onto the very fabric of your DNA, when He weaved you together in your mother's womb. Which means you don't have to look very far. I want you to see this clearly for yourself by looking at a passage in Jeremiah chapter 1. Here Jeremiah describes an encounter he had with God that woke him up to his God-ordained purpose.

*"Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;*

*Before you were born I sanctified you;*

*I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Did you notice *when* God decided what Jeremiah's life would be about?

Was it when He called Jeremiah to be a prophet? Was it when Jeremiah was a teenager, and He thought "I see something special in him, I think I am going to call him to be a prophet to the nations?" Was Jeremiah called in *response* to the need of the nations?

No, no and no! God decided what Jeremiah's life would be about long before He ever formed Jeremiah! Jeremiah was fashioned with a prophetic purpose in mind. A mission to meet a need that would arise in a particular generation! Jeremiah's life was a dream in God's heart, and when he weaved Jeremiah together in his mother's womb, He encoded this dream onto his DNA.

My precious sister, it is vital that you realize today, you too were designed with a purpose, formed from God's heart to meet a particular need for this generation. There is no one else on the planet like you; you were designed to leave a unique fingerprint on the world. A tremendous and sobering reality! You are not an afterthought by any stretch of the word. God in His infinite wisdom looked down through the corridors of time, deciding when, what, why and how your life would be best served. You are a masterpiece with a mission!

---

*You are a masterpiece with a mission!*

---

Here in this passage, God is waking up Jeremiah to his purpose - the very thing he had been created to do. As we continue our study, I am praying the Lord will awaken you to your purpose for the need of this hour!

Now let's turn our attention to another man who awakened to his purpose as a teenager in Genesis chapter 37. Joseph is only seventeen years old when he has a dream that brought great vision to his life. Marked as one of the twelve sons of Jacob (or Israel) the scriptures tell us he was the favorite son of his father. Of course, it didn't help that the other siblings knew he was their father's favorite. In our modern vernacular, we would call this a dysfunctional family if there ever was one. This young man's back story reads like a bizarre reality TV series. His father had thirteen children from four different women, all sharing the same household. One reason I am beyond convinced that the scriptures are in fact authored by God Himself is the lack of cover-up for men God used in redemptive history. There is no fudging the facts to build up larger than life humans for God to get His will accomplished. Foibles and failures were written about right alongside incredible acts of faithfulness. Giving us a picture of a great God using ordinary humans to accomplish

extraordinary feats. Regardless of your back-story, God has destined your future-story to be shaped by His redemptive hand of grace! Taking the ordinary and doing something extraordinary is God's MO. Count on it!

Joseph was an ordinary young man with an extraordinary God-inspired destiny!

Let's pick it up in verse 5 with his dream.

*"Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him even more. So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."*

*And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words." Genesis 37:5-8*

This dream awakens something in Joseph to which he had previously been asleep.

Prophetic in nature, it revealed a scene that would play out in his life many years later. Having read the story, we know that Joseph was destined to become a great ruler in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. But Joseph is not given this information; in fact, he wouldn't know about this part of his destiny until the moment it happens. But what is communicated clearly through this distinct dream is his destiny to reign in some capacity: "shall you indeed reign over us?" In fact, his position of authority would be of such significance that his family would reverence it. Through this prophetic dream, God awakens Joseph to his unique purpose of becoming a leader worthy of respect!

Keep in mind, like Jeremiah and every other human being that walks the face of planet earth, God carried the life of Joseph as a dream in his heart before time began. Now God was awakening him to that purpose.

Many people are under the erroneous impression that God is trying to keep his will, his destiny, his plan for them hidden. In reality, He longs for us to not only know but embrace our God-ordained purpose in life. The passage we read tells us He gave Joseph two dreams, not just one, but two! Why? So, it would be absolutely clear! So, he could be certain it wasn't just his imagination or his desires running amuck. This dream would act

as a compass in Joseph's life, keeping him pointed in the right direction even when it would be difficult to keep his bearings. It would be a light in dark places, bringing hope when it felt hopeless.

Make no mistake, He wants to give you vision for your life's journey. Of course, it doesn't mean He will tell you all the details, but he does desire to give you enough clues to both embrace His purpose and stay focused on what you're supposed to stay focused on.

*"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter."* Proverbs 25:2

God has a way of keeping things veiled just enough or hidden just enough so that if you want to ignore it you can. But when you choose to embrace by faith the clues He has given you, He will reveal even more. If you truly want to know, if you seek Him to know, He will joyfully reveal it to you.

God gave Joseph a dream; he embraced it, so God gave him another dream to bring further confirmation and clarification. And He will do the same for you! If you seek Him and let Him know your desire to know His dream for your life, He will bring the necessary revelation to you. There may be subtle clues that have been there all along, but you have overlooked or ignored them. If you simply ask, He will bring them into a clearer focus for you. He may choose to use a more dramatic means to get your attention, possibly a word of prophecy or a dream, but don't ignore the obvious.

Now before I close out this chapter I want to address what some of you may be thinking: "That's fine for those who are young, but I am getting old." Or- "That's ideal for those who haven't squandered or ruined their future, but I've ruined my opportunities."

A couple of years ago I was listening to a radio Bible "question and answer" program when a lady called in who probably was in her mid-fifties. She shared how after graduating from high school she planned to go on and get her teaching credentials. Since she was a little girl, she had always dreamed of becoming a teacher. Soon after graduating she got married, and shortly afterward her husband became very ill. Her schooling was put on hold to work and take care of him. Before long he improved, but she then found herself pregnant and went on to have a couple of precious children. Meanwhile, her husband went in and out of illness, and eventually he passed away, leaving her to finish raising the children on her own. When her children finally graduated she still maintained the hope of going back to school so she could get her teaching credentials but then her

mom got very sick and needed her long-term care. By the time, she had made this phone call; it had been several years since she had taken on the responsibility of caring for her mom. It appeared her season had passed. With great despair, she felt like she was robbed of something significant. The “Bible answer men” who were on the program explained how Christ would greatly reward her sacrifice. Expressing there is no greater love than he who lays down his life for a friend and what she had given was highly valued in God’s sight. I have a high regard for those who are gifted to respond to questions in a format like this, and their response was certainly both compassionate and true. However, I felt grieved by their answer because it was only a partial answer to this precious woman's heartache.

We must not fail to forget that it was God who put that dream in her heart. He certainly didn’t give her a dream so it would end up on the side of the road in an ash heap. Many people in the word of God have had what looks like huge delays in having a dream realized. But God invites us to partner with Him through impossible situations to live the dream out. He has resources and strategies that we cannot fathom on our own. Often it will take a different shape than we first imagined, but it is no less significant or satisfying.

I would like to have shared with this precious woman, as I share with you now; “As long as you have breath in your lungs, God has not given up on the dream He fashioned you to fulfill, so don’t you give up on the dream!”

Romans 11:29 says “God’s gifts and calling are without repentance.”

Repentance means to have a change of mind, and God has not changed His mind about you. He knew all about the obstacles you would face when He planted that dream in your heart before you were born. If you dare to ask Him “how,” He will begin to show you how. For many, “ye have not, because ye ask not” (James 4:2). I pray this will not be your story!

Keep in mind...

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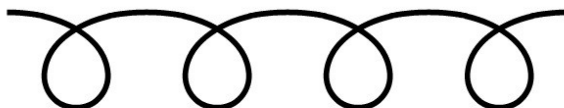
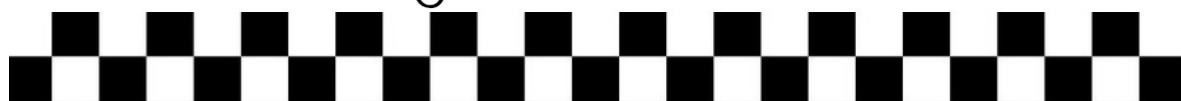
*God's dream for your life is His gift to the world through you!*

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The longing you feel for that dream to be realized is not selfish; it is in fact “deep calls unto deep.” (Psalms 42:7) You were created to fulfill a significant purpose on this green earth. You were designed to satisfy a longing in the earth through the redeeming-grace of God. This is no small matter. Much is at stake!

Go Deeper-Week One

*Awaken to the Dream*



## Study Guide-Week One

---

*"Thou art worthy,  
O Lord, to receive glory  
and honor and power:  
for thou hast created all things,  
and for thy pleasure  
they are and were created"  
Revelation 4:11 KJV*

---

According to Revelation 4:11 why were you created?

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Read Psalms 139:13-16 then answer the following question.

Who formed you?

Look up the words: fearfully, wonderfully and marvelous in a dictionary and write a brief definition for each one.

Fearfully:

Wonderfully:

Marvelous:

Now using some of the definitions you looked at write a statement describing yourself.

I am... \_\_\_\_\_

---

Can you identify with the words of the Psalmist when he says “that my soul knows very well?”

If you are like me, you will have some difficulty in accepting how truly wonderful you are to God. Yet believing this is essential to receiving and living God’s agenda for your life. Consider the following passage, then in the space provided below write out where you struggle the most in receiving this truth.

---

*“For we are His workmanship  
[His own master work, a work of art],  
created in Christ Jesus  
[reborn from above – spiritually transformed,  
renewed, ready to be used]  
for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand  
[taking paths which He set],  
so that we would walk in them  
[living the good life which He prearranged  
and made ready for us].  
Ephesians 3:10 AMP*

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Now ask God to reveal what He says about you in the area of your struggle.  
Record your thoughts below.

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3 billion letters of DNA code determine  
the intricate details of who you are.  
This code informs every cell in your  
body with the information needed for  
you to be uniquely you!

## Developing vision for life

---

*"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them."  
Psalm 139:16*

---

According to the above verse would you say God formed you **with** or **without** a plan for your life?

---

Are you convinced God has a unique and significant purpose for your life?

---

On a scale of 1 to 10 how significant do you believe your life's purpose is meant to be? Circle one

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Every life is designed to have a tremendous impact on the life of others. Have you ever asked God what He has dreamed for your redeemed life? Explain

---

---

---

*'I am God and there is none like Me.  
I make known the end from the beginning,  
from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say, 'My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.'  
Isaiah 46:9b-10 (NIV)*

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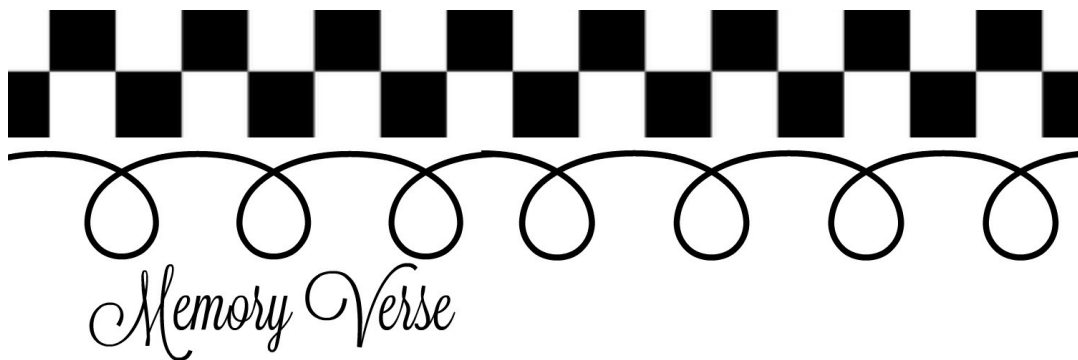
Vision plans the beginning from the end. Spend some time praying and thinking about the following questions. These will help you begin to establish some clear God shaped vision for your life so you can create goals that will move you in the right direction. Using your “Destiny Journal” or a separate piece of paper write out your responses.

- a. This may be a little challenging but I want you to think about your memorial service. Yes, the service that will occur after you have gone on to be with the Lord. Imagine who will attend and how you would like to be remembered?
- b. Relationships: How will you be remembered as a wife, mother, sister, friend or daughter?
- c. Community: What will be your legacy? What deposit will you have made into your community? How will it be a better place because you were there?
- d. World: How will the world be different because of the investment or influence of your life?

**Memory Verse:** Revelation 4:11 Go ahead and write it in the “memory verse” space provided on the following page. Take time to write it, say it and pray it!

**This Week’s Goal:** Spend time dreaming with God. Write your thoughts about what you feel is to be the theme for your life. What do you sense is God’s overall dream for you? Write this in your “Destiny Journal” or on a separate piece of paper. Your thoughts should reflect the answers you gave to questions a-d. Be as honest as you can in expressing your heart’s desires. Don’t worry about “saying the right things.” The idea is to begin to own the dreams we carry in our hearts so God can bring clarity and get us moving in the right direction. Be sure to write this goal down in the space provided on the following page.

**Declaration:** “I have been created and redeemed by Jesus to fulfill a unique purpose that brings God great glory!” Make sure to write out this declaration in the space provided on the following page.



Write it  
Say it  
Pray it



*This Week's Goal...*



*My Declaration...*

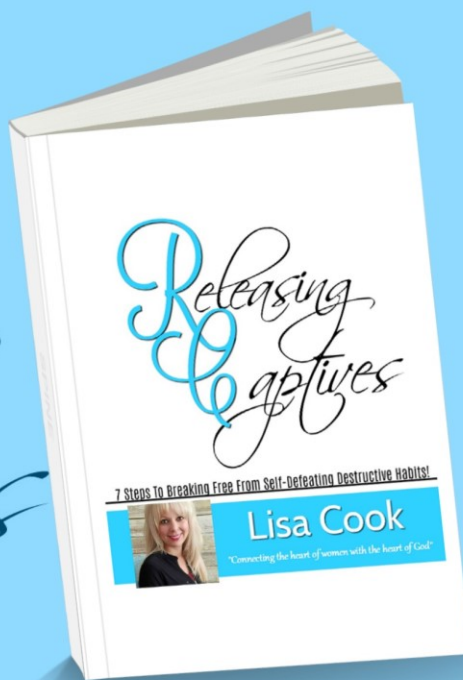
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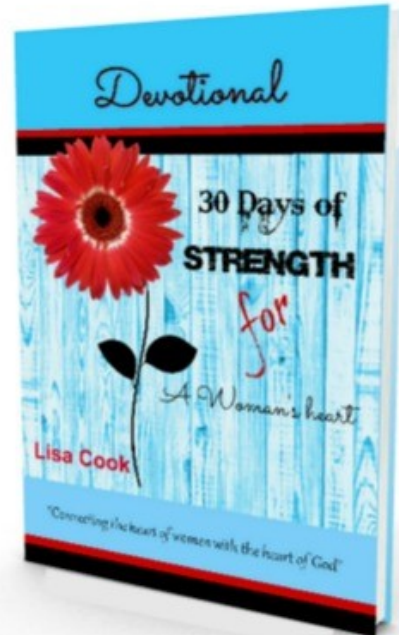


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