

Book Title: The Dream Giver

Author: Bruce Wilkinson

Brief Summary: If I am allowed to choose, this will rank as one of my best books ever! With colourful language and rapt attention, we journey with 'Ordinary' on his way to finding significance and becoming a 'somebody'. I love how it shows the difficulties that we might face on the journey to living our dreams and practical ways to overcome them.

Chapter-By-Chapter Summary

Chapter	Summary	Probing Questions & Action Steps
Chapter 1	<p>Preface & Chapter 1</p> <p>the story begins with a man called ORDINARY from the tribe of NOBODY and who lived in a land called FAMILIAR. It continues with a desire for change. "The Big Dream told him that he, a Nobody, was made to be a Somebody and destined to achieve Great Things." My light bulb moment was realising that Ordinary's dream had always been in his life - it was known to him... There is power in documenting your journey on your way to getting rid of the familiar and living your dreams</p> <p>"The purpose of the dream is to draw you toward the kind of life you were born to love!"</p> <p>The first step was the day 'Ordinary noticed a small, nagging feeling that something big was missing from his life. Or maybe the feeling was that he was missing from something big.'</p>	<p>"Could it be that maybe the Dream Giver gave every Nobody a Dream, but only some embraced their dreams?"</p> <p>The 1st step to achieving our dream might involve leaving behind the familiar. ... Are we ready for the sacrifice that your dream will require of you?</p>
Chapter 2	<p>The doubts set in as soon as Ordinary stepped out to pursue his dreams. Very reassuring to know the 'dream giver' was actively present through it all. On his journey, he realised that his big dream was on the other side of fear and a choice to step over that line is a decision to pursue ones dream.</p> <p>"Then he had an even more disturbing thought: To do what he most loved, he would have to do what he most dreaded!". How scary is it to know that you have</p>	<p>What are you afraid of?</p> <p>What is the big hurdle that you need to cross to unleash your dream?</p>

	<p>to leave the 'familiar' to have a chance of total fulfilment? Hmmmm... "Ordinary saw his choice clearly now. He could either keep his comfort or his Dream." - that just says it all for me</p>	
Chapter 3	<p>How surprising that the first set of bullies to stop Ordinary were those closest to him, including his mother! It's not a shock that those standing in the way of Ordinary's dream were those he knew so well! They will always be there to give un-needed advice but I realise the advice is not for my benefit, but theirs. ..I make the choice, I choose to keep on and when I've made that decision, I find that there is a 'Champion' close by to help... Key lesson here is to persist regardless and use the concerns as an opportunity to clarify and realign your goals. It reinforces the fact that as long as you don't give up, you will always find a way to live your dream.</p> <p>"When you left your Comfort Zone, you really shook up theirs."</p> <p>"When Bullies try to block your way, what matters most is who you choose to please!"</p>	<p>Who is stopping you from going for your dream?</p> <p>Who do you look to for inspiration to continue?</p>
Chapter 4	<p>There will come a time when the path to your dream will seem completely unachievable and your resources will run out. To continue, stay connected to faith and maximise the daily resources you are given</p> <p>And now reality set in... Who said the dream will be sustained by what you started out with. I like this 'And then one day he got hungry and opened his case ... and didn't find anything to eat.'. I have always believed in the attitude of spontaneity and adaptability - turning the lemons to lemonade and finding good in every 'evil'. Additionally, when we have reached the end of our tether, it's awesome that we can choose the 'path of faith'; and when we can't even seem to find the faith that gives direction, we can rise higher than our situation (the tree) and find faith to guide & comfort us...</p> <p>The wasteland was designed to teach us how to overcome the giants on the edge of our promise and enforce our dependence on finding the path of faith!</p>	<p>Do you know what your wasteland experience feels like?</p> <p>How do you stay connected in faith?</p>

Chapter 5	<p>This chapter takes us on a journey, to the place of SURRENDER. No matter how precious the dream is, we may never price it above the giver of the dream</p> <p>Sanctuary - a place of refreshing, the place where you become so sure and so close to your dream BUT also a place of surrender. . . Most times you don't even know what and if to surrender. . . The secret to getting it right lies in these words "I am surrendering my Dream to you, Dream Giver. I've decided that it's you that I can't go on without."</p> <p>Holding on to your dream, rather than giving it to the Dream giver means you've chosen to go it alone but surrendering it means it becomes part of His plan and guess what? It even becomes BIGGER!</p>	<p>Are you holding on or are you surrendering?</p>
Chapter 6	<p>The giants that try to stop your dreams can be defeated by shelving unbelief and listening deep down for instructions to fight them.</p> <p>"Don't be afraid of any Giant, Ordinary," said the Commander. "They're real. They're enormous. They block the path to your Dream. But if you believe in the Dream Giver and you're willing to take a Big Risk, you will get past them." Just when Ordinary thought his path was now clear, he ends up having to fight giants. My highlight here was him fighting the 'Giant of Darkness' to liberate the 'Anybodies' - it took a miracle, but he conquered and many were set free, because of his commitment...</p>	<p>Who enjoys freedom as a result of your commitment to your dream?</p>
Chapter 7	<p>Your dream will always meet a need and help others dream too. Every time you work hard on your dream, more doors will open up to you.</p> <p>"The lovely city he'd imagined all along was not his Dream—but a picture of what his Dream would accomplish." - and this right here is another reason why we don't accomplish our dream. We are so fixated with the end picture that we fail to recognise it's simply a beginning. .</p> <p>I love this chapter as it shows just how the dream is able to multiply. I believe we only have one dream at any given time; but as we achieve it and DO IT WELL, we find it grow and a new assignment that embellishes that dream is given....</p>	<p>What new dream is my current accomplishment leading me to?</p>

Chapter 8	<p>And now we get to the BUSINESS END. Chapters 8 - 14 seeks to uncover the meaning of all we've read, citing examples from the bible and the author's experiences. According to the author, your journey is summarised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Become aware of a personal Dream or calling, then decide to pursue it. 2. Face fear as they leave a place of comfort. 3. Encounter opposition from those around them. 4. Endure a season of difficulty that tests their faith. 5. Learn the importance of surrender and consecration to God. 6. Fight the Giants that stand between them and the fulfilment of their Dream. 7. Reach their full potential as they achieve their Dream and bring honour to God. <p>This is so well exemplified in the story of Moses & the waitress... sometimes the wait can be due to us not taking hold of what is obvious, while other times it could be because we are pursuing it different from how God intended it. Whatever the case, we still have the opportunity to go for it and live solidly with impact!</p> <p>Everyone has a dream and the journey toward our Big Dream changes us. In fact, the journey itself is what prepares us to succeed at what we were born to do. As we journey to achieving our dreams, think of the probing questions on the right:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What have I always been good at? 2. What needs do I care about most? 3. Who do I admire most? 4. What makes me feel most fulfilled? 5. What do I love to do most? 6. What have I felt called to do?
Chapter 9	<p>On the other side of fear is a breakthrough from your comfort zone. Here are a few misconceptions of the comfort zone</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfort Zone Misconception #1: Since I feel fear, my Dream must not be from God 2. I can't go forward unless God takes my fear away. <p>The biggest take-away from this chapter is "Dreams are to help someone else. Comfort is to help yourself..."</p> <p>When we feel Unable & Unworthy to do our dream, it's possibly because we are still in our Comfort zone!</p> <p>We make the choice of how much of an influence fear has on our advance to our dream - we could Embrace it or leave it behind (like the author did with Public speaking)</p>	<p>Have you ever been most afraid of doing the very thing you most want to do?</p> <p>Can you differentiate between 'comfort zone' challenges and 'Dream indicators'?</p>

Chapter 10	<p>This chapter focuses on the border bullies that aim to thwart our dreams and take our focus off our destined path. Sadly, most of them are well known to us and even sadder is most of us have at some point in time been bullies to other people's dreams. The 4 main types of bullies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Alarmist who thinks it's not safe 2. The Traditionalist who despises change 3. The Defeatist who sees problems everywhere and 4. The Antagonist who seeks to use his/her authority as a weapon <p>On the other side of the bullies are the BUDDIES (who encourage you) and the BUSTERS (who help you pursue the dream)</p> <p>My most poignant quote here is "When you give the right of approval of your Dream to any person or group, you've given them the right to control your Dream."</p>	<p>Who have you given power to bully you in the past and who are you currently giving it to?</p>
Chapter 11	<p>What do you do when you totally believe you are following your dream and then fall flat on your face in 'failure' and lose money in process? This is season where you feel like you're in an endless wasteland. It is in preparation to make you become the person that can do your dream. The determination to stay the course, learn and not desert the wasteland is what makes the experience translate from agony to results.</p> <p>This chapter made me remember Ordinary's wasteland experience so well... this was the part of the book that made me cry; not just because he went through it but because I know so many people having the same frustrations along their journey.</p> <p>In this chapter, I learnt that even though the experience in the wasteland is so frustrating and faith-shaking, there are actually nuggets of diamond in there. My comforting quote is "the WasteLand happens for a good and important reason: It is an invaluable season of preparation. It is the place where God transforms you into the person who can do your Dream."</p> <p>Not all trials are wasteland experiences and we should be sure it's a wasteland before remaining in it and hoping for it to grow us.</p>	<p>Do you know your wasteland experiences?</p> <p>What do you do when you are overwhelmed by this?</p>

Chapter 12	<p>The key to moving from the wasteland to securing your dream is to surrender. The author in this chapter recalls personal experiences of how he yielded his dreams and got back more, big transcended to an even higher level of commitment and reward.</p> <p>"Somewhere along your journey, it can happen to you—if you choose it. God will ambush you with an invitation to stand in His presence, to come closer, to see further. I call this experience Sanctuary." - what a perfect denotation of the experience. .. it feels like an ambush at first but we actually benefit more because we leave re-energised, and with clearer goals. "I should be a river of water and not a puddle drying in the sun".</p>	<p>Have you embraced my Dream so much to the point that it has become an idol?</p>
Chapter 13	<p>Here the author teaches how to overcome the giants that threaten the fulfilment of our dream. They include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lack of resources 2. Bureaucracy of systems that put u in a maze 3. An opposing group of individuals 4. An intimidating circumstance <p>Whatever the giant, realise that defeating it inspires faith in others and takes you closer to your dream</p> <p>This whole concept of giants is SCARY! Biggest take from this chapter is that giants will always show up on the way to our dream and we would need to employ ALL WE'VE LEARNT in order to overcome these giants.</p> <p>My key quote - "Unless you believe God will show up, you're very unlikely to defeat (or even fight) a Giant.....Unbelief is much more dangerous to your Dream than any Giant!"</p> <p>I love that the difference maker is - choosing to LOOK DOWN at giants from God's perspective and not look up at them from mine. The giants are simply to make God's name great. .. rather than run from them, we should be determined to take them on, realising that there is more gain in them being slain!</p>	<p>What giants threaten you? How are you able to turn their threat into an advantage?</p>

Chapter 14	<p>In this last chapter, the author describes his dream - how he got it, his journey towards achieving it and how it expanded. Reading it made me reflect on my next assignment and how to begin the journey towards its success!</p> <p>There are few things more powerful than learning from someone who has done the journey you are about to embark on... we learn so much from successful people. While reading this final chapter, this statement struck me "We began by doing what we could". I believe we all have strengths for a reason and as soon as we commit to our dream, even while waiting for the full picture, we can start out with what we know and who we are and the big picture is sure to emerge.</p> <p>I also realised from this chapter that a fulfilled dream can also become our FAMILIAR if we don't allow it expand to accommodate the new needs we find.</p> <p>Even though I believe we only have one DREAM at a time, the fulfilment of this one dream should be the beginning of another, which ultimately grows it!</p>	<p>What are your strengths and how do they power your dream?</p> <p>What is the new dream that is unveiling as you accomplish the current one?</p>
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