

Discover More: Together Individual Devotions

Discover More about the Message

Message Introduction: In today's scripture Jacob is on the run from his brother Esau when he has a dream of a ladder, a moment when the heavens and the earth draw near, and God speaks a promise of blessing. When Jacob wakes up he realizes that God is in fact with him, even though he did not know it. In our journey through life, there can be times when we feel that we are on our own, and yet we discover God is very near.

Reflect on the message you heard in person or on-line.

- + What is something you heard that was interesting or engaging?
- + Is there anything that raised a question or needed more explanation?
- + What is one thing you take with you? It may be something to do, something to trust, or a wisdom of insight to have.

You can listen to the message online here.

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Discover Scripture and Life

+ Read the scripture.

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this

place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Respond to one of these questions.

- + When do you have a sense of God's presence?
 - Devotions
 - Prayer
 - Nature
 - Bible Study with Others
 - Conversation
- + Jacob is surprised by the realization, God was in this place, God was with him. Have you ever had an experience like that? God was here, and I didn't realize it?

Together in Spirit

Take time to reflect about your day, your concerns, and how God may be speaking to you.

OPTION 1: One word

As you reflect about your day, what is one word that summarizes how you are feeling? What might God be saying to you in this word?

OPTION 2: Reflecting on the past 24 hours

Ask God to calm your self and help you see your life from God's perspective.

Review the last 24 hours. What happened? What stands out? What captures your attention? What is a High and Low of this time?

Give your day to God your day. Ask for forgiveness where needed. Give thanks.

Look forward. How might you be more loving this day? What is God calling you to do?

Close in the Lord's Prayer

Five Minutes with God

Genesis 28:10-17

Introduction. Like Jacob, we can forget God's persistent presence when we are lonely, scared, knee-deep in problems, or maybe just worn out by life. Like Jacob, we can be surprised in those moments and events of *Wow! God is here and I didn't know it!* Unlike Jacob, though, we don't need to swap out our pillows for stones for this to happen. We just need to gently remind ourselves of God's nearness.

Spiritual Practice. Affirmation prayers are on-the-go prayers that affirm God's grace, blessing and presence in our lives. Jacob's words when he wakes up from his dream are the perfect prayer to remind us of God's presence wherever we find ourselves: *Surely the LORD is in this place.* Let these words be your affirmation of God's presence this week. Write them on post-it notes and stick them where you will see them (bathroom mirror, refrigerator door, dashboard, computer, etc.). Pray them as you go about your day. Let God surprise you with grace and blessing as you are reminded of God's enduring presence.



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Personal Devotions
October 3-8, 2021