

04 JACOB'S DREAM

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 28:10-22

CENTRAL truth

On his way to Haran, Jacob had a unique encounter with the Lord. God's activity in Jacob's life demonstrated His love and care, despite Jacob's sin. When we follow the Lord, we can experience the same love and care today. **God is intimately involved in the lives of His people**, and this ought to lead us to worship, trust, and obey Him.

key question

How can God's promise to be with Jacob wherever he went encourage us?

Identifying Himself as the God of Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, the Lord affirmed that His covenantal blessing would extend to Jacob. God would be with him wherever he went. Many of us feel as though our lives don't reflect God's intimate involvement. We doubt and become skeptical. Yet, just as He did with Jacob, God promises to be with us wherever we go through the Holy Spirit. We can take comfort in the counsel, strength, power, and encouragement He provides.

keep in mind

- The focus of this teaching is not simply Jacob's dream. The true focal point of Jacob's dream was that God wasn't simply a distant ruler in heaven; He is active in the lives of His people. God is not far away or far removed—He is close, and He chooses to be near to us.
- With God's activity through dreams being central to this week's teaching, it's likely that students will have questions. Does God continue to speak through dreams today? While there are different streams of thought across Christian traditions, Scripture is primary to understanding how God has revealed Himself. Use this session's **Give an Answer** note and your church's own doctrinal position to help you prepare. Ultimately, it's important for students to see Scripture as the filter through which we test all things.

application

How can we prepare ourselves to truly expect encounters with God in our daily lives?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Challenge students to look for God's activity in their day-to-day lives. Encourage them to make note of the ways that they see God show up throughout their day, whether this is through prayer, recording these things in a journal, or celebrating with a friend. Help them to see that God is present and active in their lives.

FOR THE LEADER: Reflect on times when you've recognized God's activity in your life. If you haven't already created some way to remember those times, this would be a good opportunity to create a visual reminder of God's activity in your life. Share about your reflections with students so they can see that we need to remember God's presence at all stages of our lives.

SPRING
2024