



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 4: A Stairway

Suggested Week of Use: March 24, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 28:10-22

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### News Story Summary

Many media outlets have tracked the recent wildfires in the Texas panhandle because of the blazes' historic proportions. With more than a million acres burned, the fires set a record as the largest in Texas history even before they were entirely contained. Most outlets have painstakingly reported on the devastation, including the loss of human life and livestock. But a survey of the landscape highlights other important and intriguing landmarks in the path of the wildfires. For example, the fires also endangered an airport; springs that served as a historical campground for Native Americans and military forces; a battleground where Native Americans and Texas frontiersmen once faced off; the Citadelle Art Museum & Mansion; and the intersection depicted in the closing scene of the movie "Castaway."

For more about this story, search "Wildfires Texas panhandle landmarks."

### Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, summarize the information describing the landmarks in the path of the Texas wildfires. Suggest that most of the places were significant because of their history. Lead the group to share which site, if any, they would like to visit and why. Encourage the group to consider places and situations they would consider landmarks in their lives and why. Note that in this session Jacob discovered a place of blessing because he encountered God there and felt His presence. Share that it became a significant landmark for him in his spiritual walk. Ask: *What do you think was more important: the place or the encounter?*

### Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, allow the group to recall times when, like Jacob, they have experienced God's presence in an overwhelming way. Ask: *How did you recognize that God was reaching out to you? What circumstances led to this?* Encourage the group to also think about times when they have wondered where God was. Ask: *What experiences or promises could you draw on as a reminder that God is at work even when we are unaware?* Lead the group to consider practical tools, such as the spiritual disciplines of journaling, meditating on Bible verses, and prayer.