



Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Icebreaker

Do you remember your dreams? What is your favorite dream?

Conversation Starters

1. Can you remember a time when you felt like you encountered God? The first time you encountered God?
2. Are there times in your life when God seems near to you? Can you identify the possible reasons, circumstances, feelings when God seems near?
3. Do you ever feel too guilty or ashamed to talk to God, times when you would be just as glad for him not to be near?
4. What things have you done in the past that have helped you to feel close to God?
5. Does God's holiness attract you or make you cautious?
6. Ed said, "Essau, (Jacob's brother) was a fool and Jacob was a liar and a cheat. People who encounter God are changed." Can you relate to this? How?
7. Read Jacob's vow to God. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear 21 so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God 22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." Have you ever made a vow to God? What were the circumstances? What do you think about the vow Jacob made to God?
8. Have you ever dreamt about God or Spiritual things like Jacob? What do you think about dreams like this?