

JACOB'S DREAM

Jacob's true birthright is given by God who draws near.



THE STORY: GENESIS 27:41- 28:5

MONDAY

Jacob leaves his home to search for a wife

Jacob leaves his home to search for a wife – Although Esau is very angry, Isaac recognizes God's plan. Because Rebekah did not want Jacob to marry a Canaanite, Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him along. He gives an even more detailed blessing than before and passes along the promise of his father Abraham.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Isaac making Jacob's journey a difficult one for him? (*Isaac, unlike his father's gifts, is not sending Jacob with any money to purchase a bride. As a result Jacob will have to work for his wife.*)

How will God use this trial in Jacob's life? (*God uses trials to perfect our character and build our faith. See 1 Peter 1:6-7.*)

PRAY:

Knowing that we will all experience various trials ask God to help us see His purpose in them all and rejoice in them knowing they are perfecting our character.



THE STORY: GENESIS 28:10-17

TUESDAY

God reached out to Jacob in a dream and confirms His covenant with Jacob

God reached out to Jacob in a dream and confirms His covenant with Jacob – It was by God's initiative that He appeared to Jacob. Jacob was not calling for God, nor was he searching for God on his journey.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Jacob afraid when he realized God was in that place? *(Imagine you are at the circus and a great lion escapes out of his cage, even though the lion has been tamed, he still has great power. Even though God has made a covenant with Abraham and reaffirms it with Jacob, God still has awesome power and splendor.)*

Should we fear God? *(Yes. Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10 tell us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.)*

Does that mean we need to be afraid and run away from God? *(The only people who need to run away from God are those who reject His Word. They should fear His judgment, just like Adam and Eve when they realized they sinned. But those sinners that know Jesus died on the cross to forgive of sins can run to God. Because of Jesus we can draw near to God without fear of judgment.)*

PRAY:

Pray that God will give you the faith to believe in Jesus so you can freely run to God without fear of judgment.



THE STORY: JOHN 1:43- 51

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

Before his dream, Jacob received the promised blessing only through his father Isaac.

But in these verses the Lord appears to Jacob and repeats to him the promise originally given to Abraham. From Jacob's seed would come a blessing to all people. This blessing is salvation through Jesus Christ. The dream was God's initiative toward Jacob just as the life and gospel of Christ is God's initiative to us. We would not know God if He did not reveal Himself to us first.

John records these words of Jesus: And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51, ESV) Here Jesus lets us in on a little secret: He is the stairway. There is a bridge from earth to heaven and Jesus is that stairway. Jesus made it possible for man to be forgiven and go to heaven to dwell with the Lord. He is the one who made the way for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Jesus the stairway for us to travel to heaven? *(Nothing we could do can get us to heaven. It is only trusting in what Jesus has done when he died on the cross that we can get to heaven. Jesus is the only way [see John 14:6])*

PRAY:

Ask God to save your life through Jesus who is the only way to salvation and heaven.



THE STORY: GENESIS 28:18-22

THURSDAY

Jacob committed his life to serving God – God’s call ministered to Jacob and was effective in capturing Jacob’s heart. As a result, Jacob pledged to serve the God of his father.

Jacob committed his life to serving God

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does Jacob do to mark the place where he met with God? *(Jacob set a stone up as a pillar and poured oil over it.)*

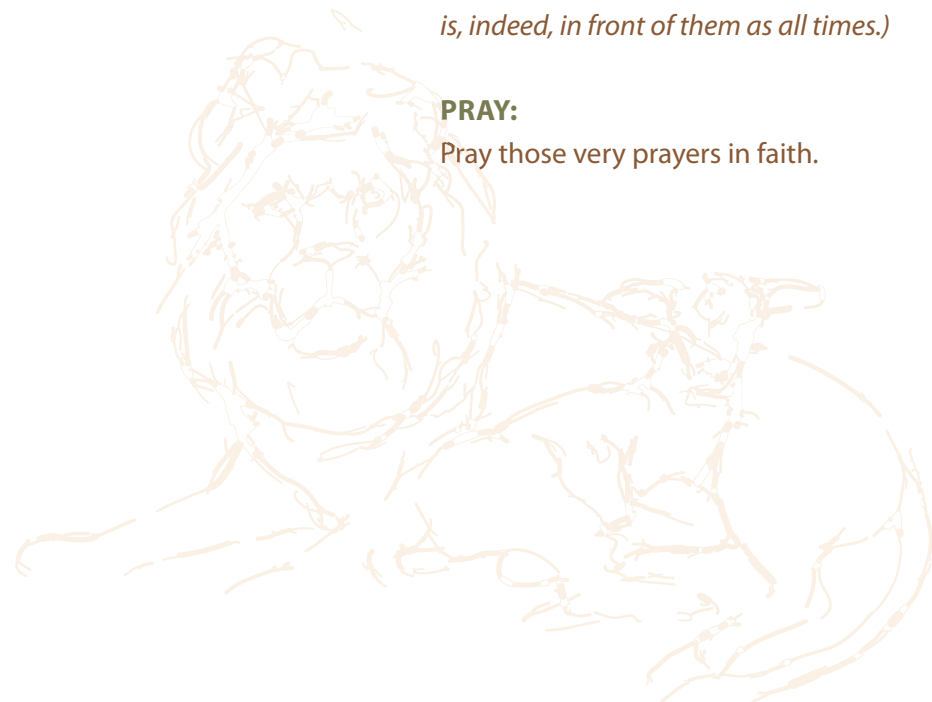
What do we learn from Genesis 31:13 about Jacob’s actions here? *(God heard Jacob’s vow and saw the pillar he set up.)*

What should that say to us about God? *(Knowing that God heard Jacob’s prayers should give us confidence that God hears our prayers as well.)*

If God was sitting in front of you, what would you ask Him? *(Remind children that God is, indeed, in front of them as all times.)*

PRAY:

Pray those very prayers in faith.





On the road to Emmaus.

Isaiah predicts that “one will come from the lineage of Jesse.” Specifically, Isaiah mentions that this branch will bear fruit. In John 15:4-5 Jesus tells us that He is the vine and, if we remain in Him, we will bear much fruit. Jesus’ ministry bore much fruit as He healed and raised the dead. But no act of our Savior bore more fruit than His death on the cross. That allowed all of us (lesser branches) to be grafted into the vine and bear fruit. All of this is only possible because of the finished work of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The fruit we bear is ultimately His.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Bible mean when it talks about bearing fruit? *(Fruit is the successful result of labor. Fruit is the product of our efforts. Good fruit is the good product of good efforts; bad fruit is the bad result of failed efforts. Just as a healthy apple tree produces apples, so a healthy Christian produces the Fruit of the Spirit.)*

What good fruit did Jesus produce in His life? *(Everything that Jesus did was excellent. The most noteworthy of Jesus’ good fruit is the fruit of the Gospel, Colossians 1:6. We are the fruit of the Gospel. Salvation has come to those who would believe in Jesus. Our lives, changed by the power of the Holy Spirit, are a grand harvest of fruit. Jesus, forecasting this abundance of fruit said, “I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35b)*

PRAY:

Ask God to make you a part of His great harvest that you might bear fruit for God in your life.

