

A DREAM | GOD'S GOOD PURPOSE

WEEK 17: GENESIS 28

ANCHOR PASSAGE.

Consider using this passage as the underpinning for your group's conversation. Encourage your group to read and pray through this Scripture passage prior to your group meeting and in the days following.

Genesis 28:3-4

³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. ⁴ May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!"

Genesis 28:15

¹⁵ Behold, 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."

Helpful Passages:

- Genesis 17:1-8
- Genesis 27

THEMES.

The following themes trace the high-level movement of this week's Scripture passage. They may help you begin to frame the direction of your group's conversation.

1. God does not forget or forsake his promises. (Gen. 28:12-15)
2. God is not afraid to intervene and speak directly into our circumstances. (Gen. 28:1-4, 12-15)
3. It is good to mark and celebrate God's past faithfulness because it serves as proof that God will fulfill his future promises. (Gen. 28:16-22)
4. God's faithfulness should lead us to worship. (Gen. 28:18-22)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. *What is the significance of the first part of Jacob's dream found Genesis 28:12?*

Hint: Jacob was alone in the wilderness, but was he really? No. The imagery of angels in his dream would have been comforting because it showed him that he was not alone after all. In fact, God was next to him and heaven was close. He did not have to fear, for God was closer than he knew.¹

2. *God was gracious to remind Jacob of the promises he made to Jacob's fathers, Abraham and Isaac. What promises of God do you cling to? What promises do you too often forget? How are you reminded of God's promises?*
3. *The message God gave Jacob via the dream exactly suited Jacob's present circumstances. He was leaving his father's house, yet the God of his fathers was speaking to him. He had no friendly relatives to give him shelter en*

¹ Joyce G. Baldwin, *The Message of Genesis 12-50*, The Bible Speaks Today. (Downer's Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986), 118.

route, yet God promised to give him land. He had no wife at the time, yet God promised numerous offspring and descendants.²

Can you think of a time when God has spoken to you and directly addressed your circumstances? How has he done so? What circumstances or situations in your life feel overwhelming today? Where do you need God's help?

Hint: Through the Bible, during prayer, by using other faithful men & women, etc.

4. Jacob's response to the dream was worship. *Do you find yourself responding to God's faithfulness with a posture of worship? Another way to ask the question is this: Does God's kindness and grace consistently elicit a response of worship in your life?*

Hint: Sometimes as humans, we can become numb to God's innumerable blessings in our life. At times, our response is not one of gratitude, but one of entitlement, pride, or apathy. Let this time be a time of self-assessment and confession for the ways we often take for granted God's abounding kindness and grace.

5. *What is the Christ connection of this passage?*

Hint: See Genesis 28:12-15. Jacob's offspring was indeed blessed through the future Messiah, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ladder between God and man. Our sin separates us from a holy God, and Jesus is the bridge of that gap. Additionally, God is still with us today. His promise still stands that He will not leave us until He has done all that He has promised. As Christians, those who have believed and trusted in Jesus's finished work on the cross, we have the Holy Spirit as a guarantor of our future inheritance and a Helper for our daily trials and needs.

PRAY.

Consider these prompts as you pray with your group:

- Praise God for His continual faithfulness.
- Confess and repent for the ways that you have fallen short in your response to his kindness and grace.
- Ask the group to share areas of personal need. Ask God to help.

² Joyce G. Baldwin, *The Message of Genesis 12-50*, The Bible Speaks Today. (Downer's Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986), 118.