

GOD MEETS JACOB AT BETHEL

Genesis 28:10–22

Key Verses: 28:21–22

1. Why is Jacob on this journey (27:36,41–45; 28:1–2)? How is Jacob described at this point (10–11)? How might he have felt?
2. What did Jacob dream, and what did it mean (12)? How does God introduce himself, and why (13a)? What promises does he give him (13b–15)?
3. Compare this with God's first encounter with Abraham (12:1–3) and with Isaac (26:2–5). What is the same and what is different here? What is God's greater purpose in helping Jacob?
4. What happens to Jacob, what does he say, and what does this tell us about his understanding of God (16–17)? What does Jacob do (18), and what does it mean? What does he name the place, and why (19)?
5. Describe the contents of Jacob's vow (20–22). Why do you think he said such things? Why was it good for a man like him to vow to God? How did God use this in Jacob's life (31:11–13; 35:1)? What can we learn here about developing personal faith?