

SERIES TITLE: Disguised

PART 2: GOD'S PRESENCE

TEXT: GENESIS 28:10-22

INTRODUCTION.

Genesis follows the work of God, moving from creation, to the entrance of sin, to judgment, to the selection of a family through which the nations will be blessed. The promises of God to Abraham were passed to Isaac, and now to his son Jacob. His story takes up half of the book of Genesis. Jacob is not an admirable character, but God is gracious.

DISCUSSION.

When or where do you most experience God's presence?

EXAMINATION.

28:10-11 How would you describe Jacob's emotional/physical/spiritual state at this point?

28:12-15 What do you think is the significance of the ascending and descending angels?

Why do you think the promise was given to Jacob in this way and not while still at home or at his destination?

28:16-19 What do you see in Jacob's response that is positive and what is negative?

28:20-22 What differences do you see between what Jacob asks of God and what God has just promised?

APPLICATION.

- How and why does God work through dysfunctional, deceptive people?
- When it comes to being aware of God's presence in your life, which of these is the bigger problem and why: lack of expectation? Too many distractions?
- Read John 1:47-51 and describe the significance of Jesus equating himself with Jacob's ladder.
- How has the arrival of "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23) changed your access to God?

- What is one way you can better expect God in the ordinary things of life?
- React to this statement: The more you focus on Jesus, the more you will experience the presence of God.
- Can you think of some practical ways to increase your focus on Jesus?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?