



Family Worship Experience

- READ THE SCRIPTURE -



JACOB ENCOUNTERED GOD

Read Genesis 28 from your Bible or from below.

One day Isaac spoke to his son Jacob. “Do not marry someone from here. Go far away to your mother’s relatives. Find a wife there. May God bless you as your family grows.”

Jacob left his family and traveled toward Beersheba. One night as he camped outdoors, Jacob went to sleep with his head on a rock pillow. While he slept, Jacob had a dream. Jacob dreamed of a stairway with the bottom on earth and the top reaching to heaven. Angels were on the stairway, going up and down the stairs. The Lord was standing beside Jacob.

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and of Isaac. I will give you and your family after you the land on which you lie. Your family will grow to be many people. You will spread out over the land. Everyone on earth will be blessed through you and through your descendants. I am with you. I will watch over you no matter where you go. I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised.”

Jacob woke up. He thought, “God was here! I did not know it! This place is wonderful! It must be the house of God and the gate of heaven.”

Jacob took the stone where he slept and poured oil on top of it as a way to worship God. He named the place Bethel, which means “House of God.”

Jacob promised, “If God is with me and watches over me on this journey, giving me food and clothes, and taking me back to my father, He will be my God. This stone will mark the place and I will give to God a tenth of everything I have.”



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-TALK ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE-

Say: *I want to tell you about another big word that describes who God is and what He can do. The word is omnipresent. You might be able to guess what that means from the second part of the word (present) or maybe from the story you just heard. But in case you are not sure it simply means present everywhere at the same time.*

Being present everywhere at the same time is only something God can do. It means He can be with you while He is with someone else on the other side of the world at the exact same time. God is always present with us no matter where we go. I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty cool and comforting to me.

Just like Jacob, when you leave home and travel to another place, God is there with you along the way. When you lay down to sleep, even if you have to use a rock as a pillow, God is there. When you start a new school, join a new team, go on vacation, or when you visit a friend—God is there. There is no where you can go that God will not be there with you. Even when you, like Jacob, don't realize it, God is with you. God is always with you, and He always takes care of you just like He took care of Jacob.

God is everywhere at all times. He appeared to Jacob, and later He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to fulfill His plan. And when Jesus had fulfilled God's plan to rescue us from sin, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with those who believe in and trust Jesus. The Holy Spirit is always with us to be our guide and help us to fulfill the plans God has for our lives. It's great to remember that no matter where you go or what new situation you face, God is already there. You are not alone!

Preschool Life Point: *God is always with you.*

Kids Life Point: *God is everywhere and always with you.*

Preschool Review Questions:

1. What did Jacob use for a pillow?
2. What did God tell Jacob He would do for him?
3. How did Jacob respond when he woke up?

Elementary Review Questions:

1. What were some of the promises God made to Jacob in his dream?
2. What did Jacob think when he awoke from his dream?
3. How did Jacob promise to show his thankfulness to God?

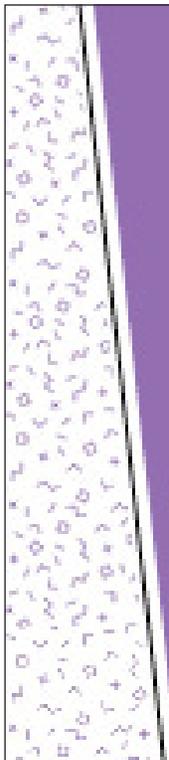
Pray: *Heavenly Father, thank You for being with us wherever we go and in whatever we do. Thank You for being faithful to keep every promise You make. Help me to remember to be thankful for all You have done for me. Amen.*



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- LEARN SCRIPTURE -

The weekly Bible verse below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.



PRESCHOOL (paraphrase): God is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9*

KIDS: Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9*



Family Worship Experience

- SING -

Sing a *Bible Studies for Life* song or one of your family's favorite worship songs.