

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of September 11-17, 2022

“STONE PILLOWS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Have you ever had a dream that was so vivid that you woke up so affected? What was it about?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read ahead GENESIS 28:10-22

1. In verse 11, Jacob was forced to stop for the night at this “certain place.” Do you see this as accidental, or “on purpose”? Why? Have you ever been forced to do something that seemed as if it was “meant to happen”? When was that, and how has it affected you?
2. Read verses 12-15. What does the dream mean for Jacob’s situation? Does this seem like a divine “seal of approval” on Jacob’s behavior up to now? Or is it an “in spite of”? What does this tell us about God?
3. What do you think of Jacob’s reply upon awakening (verses 16-17)? His actions the next morning (verses 18-19)? Would you have responded the same way or differently? What does that tell us about ourselves and our response when God reveals something to us?
4. In verses 20-22, Jacob makes a vow, including several conditions. What is your impression of that vow? (e.g. does it seem reasonable or unreasonable, legitimate or illegitimate, sincere or cynical, ... ?) What gives you that perspective? What difference does it make how you hear this vow?
5. What childish “deals” with God do you recall making? How did they turn out? As an adult, how do you “deal” with God? What’s the difference? How can we avoid making our obedience to God conditional?
6. Jacob says that he will give a tenth to the Lord. How is this also an act of faith in God? How is giving to the Lord supposed to be an act of faith for us today? Is this true in your life today?

7. Discuss a time when your well laid plans were not God’s plans. What did you learn about yourself? What did you learn about God? Is there a plan that is God asking you to abandon and turn over to him?

8. NEXT STEPS

Wherever our journey leads, our true destination is God!

- I will remember who I am in Christ.
- I will praise God for his faithfulness.
- I will worship the Lord and use whatever I have to honor him.
- I will carve times of solitude in order to listen to God.
- God is my greatest blessing and I will share him to those in need of his grace.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Take the time to praise God for his faithfulness in your life.
- Pray for a heart that pleases God by worship and obedience.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

September 12	Genesis 28:1-9
September 13	Genesis 28:10-22
September 14	Luke 5:15-16
September 15	Genesis 24:1-16
September 16	Psalms 21:1-13
September 17	Revelations 4:8-11
September 18	Genesis 29:1-30