

Focus Verse

“Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” – Genesis 28:14

FIRST DAY: Read the notes and the references.

1. Use this space to record how you have seen God’s activity during the week. (How has He provided, answered, comforted, reconciled, guided, etc.?)
2. How did the week’s verses, lecture, notes or discussion change or confirm your thoughts about God?

SECOND DAY: Read Genesis 28:1-9.

Isaac and Rebekah blessed Jacob and his journey to find a wife.

3. What differences exist between this blessing from Isaac and the one Jacob received while disguised as his brother, Esau?
4. Why did Isaac encourage Jacob to flee to Paddan Aram?
5. When have you recently had the opportunity to redeem a circumstance or relationship through a deliberate choice to obey God’s Word?
6. What did Esau do when he learned Isaac commanded Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman? What wrong thinking does his choice reveal?

THIRD DAY: Read Genesis 28:10-11.

Jacob stopped at night on his journey to Paddan Aram.

7. What kinds of discomfort, loneliness or loss did Jacob face in his travel to Paddan Aram?
8. a. When has God taken you out of your comfort zone or to obedience that seemed costly?

b. What does pain in the process of spiritual growth reveal about the redemptive power of God? (Use James 1:2-8; 1 Peter 2:13-22; 3:13-22 to enrich your study and discussion.)

FOURTH DAY: Read Genesis 28:12-15.

God appeared to Jacob in a dream.

9. Describe Jacob's dream. How do Jesus' words to Nathanael in John 1:51 help you understand the symbolism Jacob would not have fully understood? (See also John 14:6 and Hebrews 10:19-20.)
10. Give God's personal promise to Jacob regarding:
 - a. Land
 - b. Descendants
 - c. Blessing
 - d. God's presence with him
11. The Bible contains God's personal promises and confirms His presence with believers. What promises of God could help or encourage you right now?

FIFTH DAY: Read Genesis 28:16-22.

Jacob worshipped God with a vow at Bethel.

12. What stands out to you about Jacob's response to the presence and promises of God?
13. How are you encountering God through your study of Genesis this year?
14. How is God calling you to commit to fully trusting Him? What is holding you back?

SIXTH DAY: Review Genesis 28.

15. How does this chapter enlarge your thinking about God? How are you personally encouraged to deeper faith in God?
16. Homiletics for group and administrative leaders: Genesis 28

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