



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 4th August 24



Genesis 28:10-22 Stairway to Heaven

Warm Up

What is the most dramatic conversion story you have heard? Scrooge, St Paul, Nicky Cruz...?
Share a story, your own if appropriate.

Background and context

Jacob is a man who has spent his life seeking to be first, to achieve, to become someone. Born the second twin, he tricked his brother out of his birthright and then fooled his father into giving him the eldest son's blessing. He has sought to be first at the expense of others. It is now coming home to roost. His brother wants to kill him. He flees his home with nothing. He has hit rock bottom.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Genesis 28:10-22. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?



1. What evidence is there in the text that Jacob has hit rock bottom? (Where is he? What does he use for a pillow?)
2. In what ways can we feel like Jacob? How do we feel about the future?
3. **Read Gen 25:29-34, Gen 27:19-27.** How has Jacob achieved all his desires so far?
4. **Read Gen 27:41-45.** Why does Jacob find himself homeless and alone with nothing?
5. Jacob's earlier life was sweet, he had it all. It has now gone sour. He has lost everything. How is this similar to the story of The Fall in Genesis 3?
6. **Read 28:13-16.** Jacob is paying the price for his sins. In his dream, what does God offer him?
7. In the dream the staircase connects heaven and earth. Why are they separated? What is the staircase a picture of?
8. **Read John 1:50-51.** What is Jesus suggesting here?

Discipleship and Application



9. When there is no connection between heaven and earth, people find themselves in a mess. How can we resolve it? **Read Gen 28:20.**
10. How does this story show that humans are not able to deal with their own sin?
11. **Read Romans 8:37-39.** How does this passage give us hope that God's rescue of us is permanent?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.