



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 25th August 2024



Genesis 28:10-29:12 Promises Promises

Warm Up

What do you think is the easiest promise to make and most difficult to keep? Wedding vows? Employment contract? Promises to children? What is your experience of kept or broken promises? Why are human promises easily made and easily broken?

Background and context

Jacob has made some poor choices in his life so far that have ended up with him isolated and his family relationships in tatters. His brother wants to kill him! He leaves home unprepared and makes his way 900km north to where the other side of the family live. He has his walking stick and that was about it! However, God was with him and had a plan for him, if only Jacob would trust Him.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Genesis 28:10-29:12 What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?



1. **Look at 28:10-11.** how does the text suggest that Jacob is alone and at rock bottom?
2. The dream Jacob has is strange. What do you think the Lord wanted to say through imagery in the dream?
3. **Look at 28:13 and 20-22.** What changes have taken place as a result of the dream?
4. **Look at 28:13-15.** What 8 amazing things does God promise Jacob?
5. **Look at 28:20-22.** In comparison to God's promises, how underwhelming is Jacob's response? Why do you think this is so? What is Jacob focused on?
6. How is Jacob's response typical of so many people when faced with God?
7. Read the following verse to see what we should focus on: **Rom 8:1, Rom 8:38, 1 Cor 15:50-54, 1Peter1:4, Rev 21:3-4, Rom 5:1**
8. **Read 29:11.** How does Jacob react when he realises God has kept His promises?
9. **Read Gen 49:24-26.** What evidence is there that Jacob ended his life trusting God? Why do you think he did so?

Discipleship and Application



10. How can we stop ourselves from focussing on the here and now and instead focus on God's eternal plan for us?
11. How has God shown you that His plans for you are bigger than you can imagine?



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.