

Genesis 28 – Getting to Know God

May 24, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



GETTING TO KNOW GOD

- HIS UNCHANGING PURPOSE
- HIS UNCONTAINED PRESENCE
- HIS UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE



Questions:

1. In what season of your life did you grow most in your knowledge of God and your relationship with Him? What event(s) triggered that special time of growth?
2. What stood out to you in the story of Jacob's dream with a stairway (ladder) up to heaven?
3. What do you remember about each of the main points of the sermon? (seen above). What especially spoke to you? Do you have any questions to ask?
4. Read Judges 6:22-27. This story takes place after the Lord miraculously helped Gideon and 300 men defeat a vast army.
 - a) Who did the Israelites give credit to for saving them?
 - b) What did Gideon say in response? What grade would you give Gideon for his response to the people?
 - c) What did Gideon do with all the gold that people contributed from the plunder?
 - d) What went wrong?
 - e) What grade would you give Gideon for his handling of this situation?
 - f) What does God care about more, that we say the right things or that we do the right things? (see James 1:23-25, Matthew 21:28-32)
 - g) Do you struggle to follow through with what you know to be right and true? How can you grow in your spiritual integrity? (see Romans 12:1-2, Romans 8:11-14)
5. Read Numbers 21:4-9
 - a) What does this story illustrate about what God thinks of our complaining?
 - b) What did God do for the people?
 - c) Now read 2 Kings 18:4 (this describes spiritual reforms made by King Hezekiah hundreds of years after the time of Moses). Why did Hezekiah do what he did with the bronze snake?
 - d) Do you think you ever fall into the trap of idolizing something that God has done in the past? How can we avoid that danger?
 - e) From the sermon, in what way was Jacob in danger of putting too much focus on a place and a spiritual experience? (see Genesis 28:17-19)
 - f) What had God told him Jacob about the location of His presence? (see Genesis 28:15)
 - g) What should we do rather than venerate past places of spiritual experience and breakthrough? (see Amos 5:4-5).
 - h) Now read John 3:14-16. The people had fallen into worshiping the bronze snake, but what was it really pointing to?
6. In Jacob's dream, the Lord told him that the blessing he had fought so hard to get was really for the purpose of blessing others. In what ways are you bringing God's blessings right now to the world around you?
7. Take some time to pray that God would open up more avenues for you for ministry and spreading the gospel. Also take prayer requests in your group and pray for any specific needs.