

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Genesis 28

BRAD PAUSLEY

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The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- On Sunday morning, Pastor Brad talked about his experience camping alone in the woods. Have you ever gone camping for vacation? What would your ideal vacation look like?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- **Remember** what your group talked about last time you met. How have you changed since then?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Genesis 28:10-22 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Brad encouraged us with **five blessings God gives us when we are alone, discourage, or in trouble**.

1. God gives us Himself (vs. 12-15)

1. Highlight the word, “behold” every time you see it in these verses. When was the last time you spent time just “beholding” God for Who He is? Remember, *you become what you behold*.
2. Read Psalm 73:25. What can you do this week to cultivate a fresh vision of God in your life?

2. God gives us His promises (vs. 13b-14)

1. Even though Jacob is a jerk, God repeats to Jacob the same promises He made to Abraham and Isaac. What does this tell us about God?
2. Talk about a time in your life when you felt like you were entitled to God’s blessings. Why is this feeling of entitlement dangerous for our relationship with Jesus?

3. God gives us His presence (vs. 15)

1. God doesn’t give Jacob the details of His promises, but He promises to be with Jacob. Be honest - which would you rather have - the details of God’s promises, or the assurance of His presence?
2. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul tells us to “pray without ceasing.” In our busy lives, how can we possibly do this?

4. God gives us His invitation (vs. 16-19)

1. The Bible usually pictures God as seated, but in this passage, He’s standing. What is the significance of God taking up this posture in this story?
2. What exactly is God inviting us to? Is it a weekly worship service? A dutiful tithe? A certain habit or discipline? Or a living encounter with Him? How will you accept this invitation this week?

5. God gives us His patience (vs. 20-22)

1. Even after God shows Himself to Jacob, Jacob’s promises still seem to be contingent on God’s provisions (note Jacob’s “if/then” statements). Look at your own life - how often do you find yourself making if/then statements to God?
2. In Genesis 11, men tried to get to God by building a tower. In John 1, Jesus describes Himself as the ladder. Are you ever tempted to try to build your own stairway to heaven?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that we will be changed to be more like Jesus as we behold Him (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).

