

# Sweet Dreams

Genesis 27:41-28:22 | July 26, 2020

**Context:** Having deceived his father and stolen his brother's blessing, Jacob is a fugitive seeking refuge at Haran with his uncle Laban, but God is about to meet him in an unexpected way.

- Man on the run (27:41-45)
- Man with a plan (27:46-28:5)
- Man interrupted by God (28:10-22)

## Lessons of Hope:

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|---|-------|--|
| H | _____ | With God, there is always hope.                            |
| O | _____ | God is ALWAYS with his own.                                |
| P | _____ | God's awesome presence was not just for Jacob, but for us. |
| E | _____ | God meets, changes, and uses sinful people.                |

**God is always with his people—**

## Response:

## Discussion Questions:

1. What contemporary situations could be similar to what Jacob was facing at the beginning of this account?
2. Can you think of other passages of Scripture that give an example or promise of the truth that God is always with his people?
3. How can we move from just knowing "God is with me always" in our heads to experiencing Him in our lives?



## Questions for Parents to use with their children:

1. **Why was Esau so angry with his brother Jacob that he intended to kill him, and what did Jacob do when Esau's plan was discovered?**

*Answer: Earlier in this chapter, we learned that Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, into giving him a blessing which Isaac intended to give Esau. While verse 41 tells us that that was the sole reason for Esau's anger, remember that we also learned back in Genesis 25:29-34 that Jacob convinced Esau to sell his birthright to him for a single meal. Jacob then fled to live with his uncle, Laban, and take a wife for himself there, until Esau's anger subsided.*

2. **What differences do you see between Jacob and Esau in Genesis 28:1-9?**

*Answer: There were two clear and significant differences between them. Jacob was blessed again by his father, while Esau received no blessing. And, Jacob did what his father told him to do (as part of his blessing), while Esau decided to do what he wanted to do.*

3. **What happened in Jacob's dream, and why do you think it was important?**

*Answer: Jacob dreamed about a ladder upon which angels of God were going up and down, and God stood above it and spoke to him, promising that Jacob would have the land on which he was lying, and that he would have a great number of descendants ("like the dust of the earth"). More importantly, God promised to be with Jacob wherever he went, and that He would not leave Jacob until He did all that He promised.*

4. **What was Jacob's response to God's promises? What should be our response to God's promises?**

*Answer: Jacob made an altar at the place promised by God, he gave it a new name, and he made a vow to God. In the vow, he declared, "The LORD will be my God," and he dedicated his property and possessions to God. As we will learn in the following chapters, Jacob lives out his faith in God through many difficult situations and events, and we will God working through all of them to fulfill his promises. Similarly, we ought to declare that God is our God, trusting him with everything we have and everywhere we go, based on his promises. Consider Matthew 28:20, in which Jesus promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age.*

*For parents (especially dads): Notice that God called Himself in Jacob's dream "the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac," before repeating to Jacob the promises He previously made to both Abraham and Isaac (see Genesis 12:1-3 and Genesis 26:1-5). Jacob will later address God as "the God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac" (see Genesis 32:9). As God's redemptive story unfolds, God will later call Himself in Exodus 3:6 (and throughout the Bible) as "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." In Hebrews 12:1-2, we Christians are told to regard the "great cloud of witnesses" before us (including Abraham, Isaac and Jacob mentioned in Hebrews 11:17-21), and to set aside everything that inhibits our walk with the Lord, fixing our eyes on our Savior. Just as Jacob has the "witnesses" of his grandfather and father before him, ask yourself in what ways is your own faith in Jesus is witnessed by your children? In other words, although their salvation does not rest on your faith, is your faith in Jesus such that your kids would regard "the God of my parent(s)" and declare like Jacob, "The LORD will be my God"?*