



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 28:16-22

October 21, 2018

For starters:

Do you typically remember your dreams? What do you think makes your dreams forgettable versus unforgettable?

Do you typically see God at work in your day-to-day? Does such come easily to you or not so much? Why or why not?

Interaction with the text: The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the ESV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. What was Jacob's response to meeting God in "a certain place" (v 11) ?
2. What do you make of Jacob's comment, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it?"
3. How did Jacob worship? What did it look like?
4. Can you recall a time when you have seen God "in the rear-view mirror"? Elaborate.
5. Have you ever had an unexpected encounter with God that changed the way you see yourself, others around you, your purpose in life, your relationship with God?
6. If God is truly "there all the time," what prevents us from being more aware of his presence - living with both the utter seriousness and joy that can come from worship as a way of life?
7. As you think about your day-to-day life right now, is there a place you sense that God is working even though you don't currently "see" it happening? Elaborate.
8. What can you do to cultivate a heightened awareness of God in your life, small group, and church?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Thank God for his promise to meet you in your everyday life. Ask for "eyes to see" when and where God is at work in your days. Ask for a renewed heart and conviction for Worship. Go forth continuing to give thanks to God. After all, *He is right... there... with... you.*

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998) and other sources.