

# GOD NEVER GIVES UP

## Dreaming | Genesis 28:10-22

1. Quickly remind yourself of Jacob's story in the chapters prior to Genesis 28:10-22. What are the headlines? Can you identify areas of dysfunction in Jacob's family? How does the story reveal Jacob's personal moral dysfunctions?
2. What was the significance of Jacob's journey to Haran? Why did Jacob stop and rest at 'a certain place' for the night? Is there any significance that God encounters Jacob in an unexpected place and in an unexpected way? Discuss.
3. What do you think Jacob's dream about the ladder reaching to heaven symbolises? How might you have responded to the content of the dream? Does God still speak in dreams today? Discuss.
4. If you sense God has ever spoken to you in a dream, how was the content of that dream bespoke for you so that you might grasp the meaning of it? Did you understand the dream immediately or only later after further reflection?
5. How did God reaffirm the covenant with Jacob in this passage? Compare the promises given in verses 14 and 15 with Jacob's verbalisation of those same promises in verses 20-21. Is this doubt, humility or something else being articulated?
6. Reflect on Jacob's response upon waking up from his dream. What was his emotional and spiritual state? How does Jacob's response reassure you as you reflect on your own journey with God where we often only notice the presence/work of God with hindsight?
7. Discuss the importance of Jacob's vow to God. What does it reveal about his faith and commitment? Why does it matter that Jacob's 'wow' of God's revelation leads to 'a vow' of commitment? How does this passage demonstrate God's grace-filled faithfulness to Jacob and his promises? Can you think of a 'wow' moment in your life that's led to 'a vow'? You may want to reflection upon first coming to faith in Jesus – a wow and a vow...?
8. Consider the significance of Jacob renaming the place Bethel (meaning "House of God"). What does this name change signify? How does this moment mark a turning point in Jacob's life? How can Jacob's encounter with God at Bethel apply to our lives today?
9. In what ways can we emulate Jacob's response to encountering God's presence in our own spiritual journeys?



What did you discover about God in this passage?  
What did you discover about people in this passage?  
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?  
With whom will you share what you have learned?

