

The First Family

Date: 5.10.2026 | God's Promise to Jacob
Scripture: Genesis 27:41-46, 28:1-22

CENTRAL TRUTHS



PRESCHOOL:

God is with us and takes care of us.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

God promised to be with Jacob and bring him back home, showing that He always keeps His promises.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

God appeared to Jacob and repeated His promises, showing that He is always with His people and will keep His word.

STUDENTS:

God reaffirmed His covenant promises to Jacob, assuring him of His presence, protection, and future blessing, calling Jacob to trust and respond in worship.

ADULTS:

God graciously reveals His presence and reaffirms His covenant promises, demonstrating that He faithfully pursues His people even in their weakness. This moment calls for a response of worship, trust in His promises, and a life oriented around His presence.

MEMORY VERSE

So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.
Galatians 3:9



DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Bethel - "House of God" - is mentioned 65 times in the OT, more than any other city except Jerusalem. It is possibly where Abraham sacrificed in Genesis 18. It was a Canaanite royal city (Joshua 8:7-9) and was eventually allotted to the tribe of Benjamin (Joshua 18:22). The ark of the covenant was located at Bethel (Judges 20) and was on Samuel's circuit when he judged Israel (1 Samuel 10:3). Bethel is associated with both sanctuary and deity. - Theological Wordbook of the OT #241

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS



As we continue in **Genesis 27:41–28:22**, we see the consequences of the deception in **Genesis 27** begin to unfold. Rebekah had coordinated the plan to have Jacob receive the blessing, and Jacob willingly participated. When Esau returned and realized what had happened, he was filled with anger toward his brother. From Esau's perspective, Jacob had cheated him out of both his birthright and his blessing. Acting as though he were the innocent victim, Esau shifted the blame entirely to Jacob and pleaded with Isaac for another blessing. Isaac gave Esau a lesser blessing that spoke of both provision and submission, confirming that Jacob would remain over him (**Genesis 27:39–40**). This only increased Esau's anger, and he began to plan to kill Jacob after their father's death (**Genesis 27:41**).

When Rebekah learned of Esau's plan, she urged Jacob to flee to Haran and stay with her brother Laban (**Genesis 27:42–43**). She understood that if Esau followed through, she could lose both sons—Jacob, through murder, and Esau, through the consequences that would follow. What began as a scheme to secure blessings now resulted in separation, fear, and broken family relationships.

At the beginning of **Genesis 28**, Isaac sends Jacob away with instructions to find a wife from Laban's family (**Genesis 28:1–2**), echoing Abraham's earlier instruction for Isaac (**Genesis 24:3–4**). Before Jacob leaves, Isaac blesses him again, asking that God Almighty give him the blessing of Abraham—the promise of land, descendants, and blessing (**Genesis 28:3–4**). This confirms that Jacob is indeed the chosen heir of God's covenant promises.

In *Genesis 28:6–9*, the narrative also returns to Esau. The account of deception began with Esau marrying pagan women and bringing grief to his parents (*Genesis 26:34–35*), and it now closes with Esau taking additional wives in response to his parents' displeasure. Rather than turning toward God, Esau continues to move further away from Him. This framing shows that although Jacob received the blessing through deception, Esau also demonstrated that he was unfit to carry the covenant forward because of his disregard for God's ways. The issue is not that Jacob was deserving—he was not—but that God was working according to His sovereign plan.

As Jacob journeys toward Haran, he travels about 55 miles over several days and stops to rest at Bethel (*Genesis 28:10–11*). There, God meets him in an extraordinary dream. Despite all of the massive family dysfunction and brokenness surrounding him, God is still sovereign. He shows Jacob a stairway that reaches from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it (*Genesis 28:12*), revealing that God is present and actively involved with His people. In the Gospel of John, Jesus later points back to this moment and reveals that He Himself is the true and better way between heaven and earth (*John 1:51*).

In the dream, the Lord stands above the stairway and repeats the covenant promises, declaring that the same promises given to Abraham (*Genesis 12:3, 7; 13:14–16; 17:7–8; 18:18; 22:17–18*) and Isaac (*Genesis 26:4*) will now continue through Jacob (*Genesis 28:13–14*). God also makes a deeply personal promise: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go... I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you" (*Genesis 28:15*). This moment becomes the first of two key turning points in Jacob's faith. God meets him at just the right time, because Jacob is about to enter a long and difficult season with his uncle Laban—a man who is just as deceptive and self-serving as Jacob himself had been. Through Laban, Jacob will experience what it is like to be on the receiving end of trickery and dishonesty, yet God will continue to care for him and keep His promises.

When Jacob wakes, he recognizes the significance of the moment and sets up a stone pillar, pouring oil on it to mark the place as sacred (*Genesis 28:18–19*). He names the place Bethel, meaning "house of God." Then Jacob makes a conditional vow, saying that if God will be with him and bring him back safely, then the Lord will be his God (*Genesis 28:20–21*). From this point forward until his return from Paddan-aram, Jacob does not yet refer to the Lord as his own

God, but instead speaks of Him as the God of Abraham and Isaac. This suggests that Jacob has not yet come to full, personal faith in the Lord. Even so, God has already chosen him and is working in his life, showing that God's purposes do not depend on human understanding, merit, or spiritual maturity, but on His sovereign grace.

This passage shows both the seriousness of sin and the greatness of God's grace. Jacob's deception led to fear, separation, and hardship, yet God's plan did not fail. Instead of abandoning Jacob, God pursued him, reminded him of His promises, and assured him of His presence. These point us to the gospel. Like Jacob, we are sinners who often try to control our own lives instead of trusting God. But God, in His grace, comes to us.

Through Jesus, the true "ladder" between heaven and earth, we are given full access to God and restored into a relationship with Him. Even when we fail, God remains faithful. His promises stand, His presence is with His people, and His plan of redemption continues. Just as God met Jacob in his brokenness, He meets us through Jesus and calls us to trust Him, follow Him, and rest in His unfailing grace.

TELL THE STORY

Genesis 27:41-46, 28:1-22

The Biggest Story Bible Storybook: Blessings in the Night

After Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing, Esau was so angry that Jacob had to leave home. Jacob's father, Isaac, sent him away to find a wife from among Abraham's people. Jacob traveled toward Haran. When the sun set, he stopped to sleep for the night. Jacob used a stone for a pillow and fell asleep.

As Jacob slept, he had a dream. In the dream, a stairway was set on the ground, and its top reached the sky. God's angels were going up and down on it. The Lord was standing beside Jacob. He said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your children the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will spread out in every direction, and all peoples on earth will be blessed through your family." This was the same promise God had made to Jacob's grandfather, Abraham, and to his father, Isaac!



Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place!” Jacob took the stone that he slept on, set it up as a special marker, and poured oil over it. He named the place Bethel, which means “House of God.”

Then Jacob made a promise. He said, “If God will be with me and watch over me during my journey, if he gives me what I need and brings me safely back home, then the Lord will be my God, and I will worship Him.”

REBUILD THE STORY

1. Why did Jacob have to leave home at the beginning of this story?
(Genesis 27:41)
2. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do when she learned of Esau’s plan? *(Genesis 27:42–43)*
3. What instructions did Isaac give Jacob before he left?
(Genesis 28:1–2)
4. What blessing did Isaac speak over Jacob before sending him away? *(Genesis 28:3–4)*
5. How did Esau respond when he saw that his parents did not approve of his wives? *(Genesis 28:6–9)*
6. Where did Jacob stop to rest during his journey, and what did he use as a pillow? *(Genesis 28:10–11)*
7. What did Jacob see in his dream that showed a connection between heaven and earth? *(Genesis 28:12)*
8. What promises did God repeat to Jacob in the dream?
(Genesis 28:13–14)



9. What personal promise did God give Jacob about His presence?

(Genesis 28:15)

10. How did Jacob respond after he woke up from the dream?

(Genesis 28:18–21)

11. How did Jacob's earlier deception lead to the difficult situation he is now facing? What does this teach us about sin and its consequences?

12. Why is it significant that God came to Jacob and gave him promises even while he was running away? What does this show about God's grace?

13. Jacob had not yet fully trusted God, but God still chose and pursued him. What does this teach us about how God works in our lives?

14. How does Jacob's dream of the stairway point us to Jesus, and why is Jesus the only way for us to be brought back to God?

GOSPEL EMPHASIS

Jacob had to run away because of his sin. He had deceived his father and hurt his brother, and now his life was marked by fear, separation, and uncertainty. Yet even in the middle of his brokenness, God was still at work. When Jacob stopped to rest, God met him in a dream and repeated the same promises He had made to Abraham and Isaac—land, descendants, and blessing for all nations *(Genesis 28:13–14)*. God also made a personal promise: "I am with you... I will not leave you" *(Genesis 28:15)*. This shows us that God's plans do not depend on human perfection. Even when Jacob was running away and had not yet fully trusted God, God was pursuing him with grace.

These point us to the gospel. Like Jacob, we are sinners whose choices bring brokenness into our lives. But God does not abandon



us—He comes to us. The stairway in Jacob's dream points forward to Jesus, who is the true way between heaven and earth (*John 1:51*). Through Jesus, God kept His promise to bless the world and made a way for us to be forgiven and brought back into His presence. Because of Jesus, we are not left in our sin—we are invited to trust God, follow Him, and rest in His promises, knowing that He is always with us.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

Use your Attributes of God poster as a guide.

PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You that even when we make wrong choices and sin, You do not leave us—You come after us with Your love. Help us to trust You instead of trying to control things on our own, and to believe that Your plans are always better than ours. Thank You for sending Jesus to bring us back to You and make a way for us to be forgiven. Help us to follow You, trust Your promises, and remember that You are always with us wherever we go.



THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Genesis 31

