

**KNOWING HOW AND WHERE
TO FIND GOD**
Genesis 28

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 28, we begin to follow Jacob's life. Family dynamics cause him to leave his home for the first time. God initiates and draws Jacob into a true relationship. The Lord seeks out this wanderer – this is God's grace in action. **Romans 3:11, John 17:3**. Jacob will begin learning about life, about himself, but most importantly – **Knowing How and Where to Find God**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 28 several times. Jacob is now on his own, and we begin to follow his life away from home. The Lord comes to Jacob when he has been rejected and doesn't know what his future holds. God always knows where we are, and how to reveal Himself to us. The challenge for us is **Knowing How and Where to Find God**. Like Jacob, let's learn - as God steps towards us, we need to step towards Him.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

I. Genesis 28:1-5. Isaac comes in line with God's plan. Realizing he was going against God's plan, Isaac now blesses Jacob and sends him away to take a wife from Rebekah's family. Isaac and Rebekah are aligned with the Lord's plan, and Jacob submits to their instruction. It's always best to obey when the Lord directs our steps, even if we don't know all the details.

II. Genesis 28:6-9. As Jacob obeys, Esau goes half way. It looks like Esau is trying to get back in his dad's favor in marrying a daughter of Ishmael. But, it is impossible to obey the Lord by making your own way or going halfway! *Selah*

III. Genesis 28:10. Jacob "out on his own". A single man, different than Esau, Jacob has been fashioned at home to be stable in his singleness. It's actually going to be a long time until Jacob finally has a bride. **Psalm 127:4**. A warrior (Mighty Man) needs his arrows be straight and strong in order to hit the mark. *Selah*

IV. Genesis 28:11-12. Jacobs ladder. Note that the Lord God initiates this meeting. Jacob's ladder is a picture of Jesus. **John 1:51**. Jacob did not find God first, but God searched him out. This is a major theme throughout the Bible and all history. **Isaiah 53:6, Matthew 18:11-12**. The Lord finds lost people! Hallelujah!!

V. Genesis 28:13-15. God's connection and promises to Jacob. Having found His stray, the Lord begins to speak to Jacob as his Shepherd. Grace is God initiating, finding, giving favor and compassion to a sinner when not deserved, and leading him for the rest of his life, into eternity. **Psalm 23, Philippians 1:6**.

VI. Genesis 28:16-17. Jacob recognizes God's presence. Some people may look for visual or emotionl stirrings in order to know God's presence, but these are often distractions. **2 Kings 19:11-12**. Others are simply not expecting God to present Himself in a given place, moment of time, or season of life. God presents Himself at times and in ways that are least expected, but exactly as needed. Jacob is learning how to recognize God's presence. We should too. **Psalm 139:1-18, Psalm 32:8-11**.

VII. Genesis 28:18-22. Jacob's response to God's promises. The Lord has met and saved Jacob while he was wandering, lost and lonely. He has spoken directly, comforting, encouraging, and promising to guide Jacob's every step. God has made precious promises that He would surely keep! Jacob's not trying to cut a deal – he has nothing to offer. **Psalm 147:1, 3, 11**.

CONSIDER Jacob responded to the Lord's goodness. God heals the broken hearted, no matter what you have done.

So, beloved, worship Him! Meditate on Jacob's response from **Genesis 28:18-22**.

- Rising early in the morning **Exodus 34:4, Mark 1:35**
- Setting up a pillar from the stone that had been at his head **Genesis 31:13, Joshua 4:5-7**
- Pouring oil on top of it **Exodus 30:26, Exodus 40:9**
- Bethel – the House of God **Genesis 12:7-8, Psalm 122:1**
- Taking God at His Word **Isaiah 43:18-19, Philippians 4:19**
- Committing to give to God **1 Samuel 1:11, Psalm 66:13-14. 2 Corinthians 9:7**

PRAY

- For your involvement in all of the upcoming outreach opportunities: Harvest America; WZXV Fun in the Sun Golf; Life Together Fest; VBS
- For our missionaries serving the Lord in foreign countries – that the Lord would meet their every need.
- For our prayer meetings – that the Lord would stir hearts to corporately cry out for an outpouring for the Holy Spirit.
- That each one of us would have a chance to share the love and hope of Jesus with a lost soul this week!