



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - September 23, 2012

Sermon

*“Climbing, Climbing,
Climbing”*

Genesis 28:10-17

by Ted Good

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 9/24/12

Genesis 28:10

Jacob traveled from one town to another. He was on a journey and this journey was a very long one--approximately 550 miles! Can you imagine walking this far? Driving 60 miles per hour in a car would require a little over 9 hours to cover this distance. If Jacob walked 3 miles an hour it would have taken him a little over 183 hours or a little more than 15 days if he walked 12 hours each day! Why did Jacob take such a long journey?

Tuesday 9/25/12

Genesis 28:11

In the midst of this long journey, Jacob grew weary and tired. The sun had already set and he found a place to sleep. But did you notice what he used for his pillow? That's right: a stone! Can you imagine using a stone for a pillow? Jacob was obviously very tired so maybe this is how he could use a stone as a pillow. When we are tired we can sleep just about anywhere and in just about any condition. When you fall into bed and greet your pillow tonight, think about Jacob and his stone pillow.

Wednesday 9/26/12

Genesis 28:12

And he dreamed. Do you ever dream? Do you remember your dreams? This dream of Jacob was so vivid it seemed very real to him! He saw a ladder reaching up to heaven! What would you do if you saw a ladder propped up and reaching into heaven? Jacob saw angels ascending and descending on this ladder. Can you imagine that? What would you have thought? What would you have done? Do you think Jacob was afraid? What do you think he was thinking?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Take a walk and think about Jacob's long journey of approximately 550 miles!

Write down your dreams in the morning this week and see if you remember any of the details.

Talk to God and allow time for God to talk to you.

Thursday 9/27/12
Genesis 28:13-14

And God was standing above this ladder! Remember, this was still back in the day when it was believed that one could not see God and live. In fact, the people were not even allowed to speak God's name because it was so holy! And here was God standing above the ladder in Jacob's dream! And he talked! He said he was the God of Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's father and grandfather. And then God said the land where Jacob was lying would be given to him and his descendants! Pretty good dream huh? Have you ever received a gift from God in a dream?

Friday 9/28/12
Genesis 28:15

God's promise was to be with Jacob wherever he traveled. God's promise was for real and God was going to see it through! We talk about traveling mercies, where we wish each other God-speed and safe travels. God was doing a similar thing here with Jacob. And no matter how far away he traveled, God would bring him back to this place. God promised to never leave Jacob. This is our promise, too! Do you realize how close God is to you even now? God will never leave you or forsake you. Thank God for this right now!

Saturday 9/29/12
Genesis 28:16-17

Jacob awoke and said, "Surely God is in this place. And I knew it not." How many times do we neglect to realize God's presence in the places we travel both physically and spiritually? Jacob was afraid and even declared the place to be holy. It was a place that he called the house of God because God was in this place, and it was the gate to heaven! Where do you think God's house is located? Where is the gate to heaven?