



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 28:10-22

October 14, 2018

For starters:

In the ebb and flow of your life so far, when have you felt beached or “high and dry”? When have you felt like “your ship was coming in” with the high tide?

What is a challenge you encountered this week or lately? Did you learn anything from the experience and if so, what?

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 NIV). 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 makes Jacob “run”? Being homeless? Landless? Aimless? Sleepless? Friendless? Guiltless? Fearless? Do you relate in any way and if so, how?
2. What is so remarkable in God’s display of grace? Why does God meet Jacob unsolicited and without reproach?
3. What do you think of Jacob’s reply upon awakening (vv 16-17)? His actions the next morning (vv 18-19)?
4. How does Jacob’s vow (vv 20-22) strike you: Mere bargaining chip, unworthy of God? Or growing trust, fitting of Jacob? Or “conversion” event, radical for Jacob? Explain.
5. What childish “deals” with God do you recall making? How did they turn out? As an adult, how do you “deal” with God? Why the difference?
6. Do you think God still speaks through dreams? What are the dangers and benefits of relying on dreams for guidance?
7. Have ever had a “Jacob moment” where God “broke in” and declared to you his promise for you?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Pray and ask God for guidance for your life in any area where you may need it. Pray that God would show you, speak to you, declare to you his promise for you.

Go forth and be discerning for God’s answer to your prayer.

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