



Part 4 - October 22, 2017

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### Crazy Dreams

- Jacob is on the run to Harran, stops to sleep and has an incredible dream and hears from God

### Unexpected Meetings

- Jacob, a scrappy underdog who acts like a villain is now our entry point into this encounter with something divine

### Verb Tenses

- Everything else in this story we are seeing at a distance and we can step back and analyze - but we are experiencing this dream *alongside* Jacob

### Above or Beside

- God standing bedside us can be uncomfortable

### Everything You Need

- Everything you have been grasping for is already right here, standing beside you in this moment

## Read - Genesis 28:10-17

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the weirdest place that you've ever fallen asleep?
2. Was there anything confusing or troubling in the teaching this week?
3. Do you have any moments from your life where you noticed "God standing beside you" the way he did with Jacob in this story?
4. Was anything that was said make you think differently about God or about yourself?
5. "*Jacob thinks he has stumbled into this moment*" - can you think of a time in your life that God met you in a circumstance or situation that you didn't believe you could be met by him?

**BENEDICTION/PRAYER:**

*God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob -*

*would you help us to see through something more like your eyes, to sense the blessing in and through and around us daily, to marvel at your grace as it surrounds us.*

*May we see life as gift — not a competition.*

*And for those who have felt lost or alone - for those of us here in this space who feel abandoned or in some way distant from you...*

*Maybe we feel like we have banged our heads against walls trying to find your doors.*

*We pray that we might know what it means to settle our hearts - and trust. And that even when the way forward is not clear - our hearts and minds might be.*

*As we watch Jacob run today and we watch you chase him down, we ask that we would know what it means to slow ourselves long enough to notice you.*

*So we slow our breathing  
and we listen to our heart beat... [pause]*

*We clear the clutter from our minds as best we can.*

*And we ask that as we open our eyes we could say with Jacob:*

*“Surely God was in this place.”*

*Amen*