

14. Jacob's Dream

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

14. Jacob's Dream

- a. The story is fairly straightforward. He was to marry someone of his own family.
- b. This begins his “punishment” for stealing the blessing, in that he was away from his land for 20 years. He must have felt very alone, and wondered when he would ever get home again.
- c. The dream was a wonderful one—when he woke up he was amazed. He promised that if the Lord looked after him, and brought him home in peace, he would worship the Lord always. He kept this promise (even burying all the idols that others had brought from the land of Haran.)
- d. And, of course, talk a lot about what that stairway to heaven was like, and how it affected him.



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The Lord Comes to Jacob in a Dream

Esau was very angry with Jacob for tricking their father into giving him the best blessing. When Jacob saw how angry Esau was, he became afraid. Rebekah, his mother, urged Isaac to send Jacob away to go to stay with her brother, Laban, in Haran. There he could find a wife from among his mother's relatives. And Jacob listened to his father and his mother and went to stay with his uncle.

Now on the way he stopped at a certain place because the sun was setting, and he took some stones from that place and put them for his pillow, and he lay down to sleep.

He dreamed, and he saw a stairway set up on the ground and the top of it reached to the heavens. The angels of the Lord God went up and down it. And behold the Lord stood above the stairway.

And the Lord said to Jacob, "I am the Lord God of Abraham and Isaac. The land you are lying on I will give to you and to your children. Behold, I am with you and I will keep you safe wherever you go. I will not leave you until I have done what I have said to you."

When Jacob woke out of his sleep he said, "The Lord is in this place and I did not know it." So Jacob rose up early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put for his pillow and set it up to make a pillar, and he poured oil on the top of it.

And he called the place Bethel and said, "This place is the Lord God's house."

Genesis 28

