



## Family Conversation Guide

09.11.2022

### September Theme: **We can shine with God inside!**

#### Monthly Memory Verse:

"...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

- **Matthew 5:16** (ESV)

#### Monthly Challenge Verse:

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go..."

- **Genesis 28:15** (ESV)

### Week of September 11

**Life Application:**  
**God reveals His light in our lives.**



**Parents:** After listening to the sermon (or reading the story), take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. **This week, Jacob is traveling away from his home to his mother's family, and God speaks to him in a dream.** Read through **Genesis 28:10-22** as you lead your kids. Have them turn to **pages 81-83 in The Action Bible** (Stairway to Heaven) and read together before you discuss.

1. After Jacob tricked Isaac and Esau so that he could gain the birthright (see **Genesis 27**) Isaac sent Jacob to Padan-aram, the home of Rebekah's father- 500 miles away. **Why did Isaac send Jacob away?** (**Genesis 28:1-4**: He feared that Esau would kill Jacob, and he wanted Jacob to find a wife among his mother's people, not from the Canaanites.) Read **verses 5-9**. **What did Esau do when he saw that Jacob had obeyed his father?** (He married a Canaanite!) **Why do you think he did this?**
2. Read **verses 10-13**. After he had traveled 40 miles, Jacob stopped to rest for the night and put a stone under his head for a pillow. **Do you think that was comfortable?** Just wait! This stone is important. **What happened when he fell asleep?** (Jacob had a dream.) **What did he see?** (A ladder stretching from heaven to the earth, with angels going up and down the ladder!)
3. **Why do you think angels were going back and forth between heaven and the earth?** (Pause for answers.) **Say: Do you think God could have sent them to help people and to have special missions on earth?**
4. Then Jacob saw God! Read **Genesis 28:13-16**. **What did God say to him?**
  - He is the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac
  - He promised to Jacob the land on which he was standing, to him and his offspring
  - God promised there would be more offspring than the dust of the earth, and that they would spread out and bless the earth
  - He promised to be with Jacob wherever he went, that He would not leave him, and that He would bless him and keep him. See our challenge memory verse for this month: "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go." **Genesis 28:15**
5. **What happened when Jacob woke up? (Verses 18-22)**
  - He said that this place was awesome, and that it was the gate of heaven. He took the stone and poured oil on top of it to make an altar, and named the place Bethel. He called it God's House. In this way he worshipped God. Later a temple would be built here.
  - He made a vow to trust God to provide for him, knowing that he would return to his father's house one day.
  - He said the Lord would be his God. He promised to tithe 1/10th of all he had and of all God would give him.
6. Jacob believed all that God had promised. **Can we believe that God is with us, and He will provide for us? Can we believe that He will be with us wherever we go? Can we believe that God will bless those who love Him?**
7. **How did Jacob show his love to God?** (Jacob worshipped God and gave 1/10 of all he had to him. We can love God in this way also!)

### Digging Deeper:

1. **Verse 22** is the second time that tithing is mentioned in the Bible. The first was in **Genesis 12**. See if you can find it!
2. David Chadwick talked about the four world views:
  - **Atheism** (*There is no God and creation was an accident.*)
  - **Pantheism** (*God is in everything- nature, trees, animals, people, and none are more important than the others. Many people hold this view today.*)
  - **Deism** (*There is a God who created the earth but He is not involved in what is happening- kind of like a watchmaker who observes what he has made.*)
  - **Bible Creationism** (*God created the heavens and the earth and He is very involved in everything. His story is: Creation, then corruption by sin entering the world, and redemption by sending Jesus to die for our sins. He has a purpose for all who believe in Him!*)

**Which of these do you think brings the most hope to all of us?**

**Which of these does not include hope that there is a purpose or a plan on this earth?**

**What is your view of God?**

3. Jesus also talks about the ladder to heaven in **John 1:51**. **Who is the ladder?**

### Family Challenge:

**Choose one or more activity:**

1. **Do you know that angels are mentioned over 280 times in the Bible? What do you think angels look like?** (*Have younger kids draw a picture, have older kids do so as well but write beside the picture things they know about angels.*)
2. Together, research “angels” on a Bible app. On a large piece of paper, **write everything you have discovered about angels.**
3. Together, **illustrate the “ladder to heaven,”** using various art mediums like crayons, markers, paint, glitter, tissue paper, etc.

### Prayer:

*Dear God, Thank you for reminding us that You will be with us wherever we go. We love You. Amen*