

I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go. (Genesis 28:15)

## **Jacob's Ladder – Genesis 28:10-22**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

As Jacob was leaving his home and traveling to Haran, he grew tired. He lay his head down next to a stone and after falling asleep, he had a very vivid dream. He dreamed that there was a large staircase that started on the ground and reached into the sky. God appeared in Jacob's dream and promised to be with Jacob and to bless him and all of his descendants.

Jacob believed that the stone was in a special and holy space, and knew he would never forget this dream. Jacob was also scared by his dream. He was not expecting to be in the presence of God while snoozing on a rock. However, God made God's presence known to Jacob.

God sometimes shows up in our own lives in very unexpected ways. We might not have a vivid dream of angels and staircases. However, there might be times when we least expect it that God leads us and shows us a new way. This can happen through prayer, meditation, a walk outside, or even through a conversation. There are no limits to where God might show up.

Moments with children can also be a reminder to us of God's presence. A child's laughter, words, or even play can serve as a way for us to recognize God's promise to continue working in the world. If we will just pay attention, we can find God everywhere.

### **Spiritual Practice for Adults**

What do you know about God? Some people say, "It's what we know God *not to be* that teaches us what and who God is." This week try to focus on God's *character*. Begin by writing down some of the characteristics of God such as compassionate, present, and so forth. Then, pick two or three of these characteristics that you can model as a way to be a reflection of God in the world. In doing so, you can be the unexpected presence and blessing of God for the people you interact with. When we take on the divine within, we allow space for God to show up in our lives and in the lives of others.

## Welcome to Wonder

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

### WONDER together:

- Do you think sleeping upon a stone would be comfortable?
- Have you ever had an interesting dream?

### CONTINUE to Wonder:

- When have noticed a blessing in your life?
- How are you a blessing for God?

### PRAY together

- Dear God, thank for you blessing me. Amen.

### SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or Download "Everywhere You Go" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play "Everywhere You Go."
- Sing and celebrate.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Wonder Cube (Digital Pack) optional, CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*

### READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Genesis 28:10-22.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answers a few of the questions.

### WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video>.) to download and watch today's Bible story.

### SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: BLESSING - A blessing is all the things God provides.

**WONDER:** Was Jacob blessed in the Bible story?

## Stone Story (Interactive)

*Supplies: rocks or stones, permanent markers*

- Go outside and find a medium or large sized rock or stone.
- After you have collected your rocks, work together to paint or decorate your rocks by draw something that represents a different part of the story.
- After you are finished, use the stones or rocks to tell the Bible story in your own words.

**WONDER:** What does God want us to know from hearing this story?

## Spiritual Practice—Exploring God’s blessings through prayer

*Supplies: Celebration Chart, Family Activity Book, (optional)*

**WONDER:** How do you know God is with you?

**SAY:** In the Bible story today, God reminds Jacob that God is with him and will bless his whole family.

- Recite the Bible verse phrase by phrase, “I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go” (Genesis 28:15).
- Use these words to do a breath prayer.

**SAY:** Take a deep breath in and say to yourself, “God is with me.” When you exhale, say to yourself, “everywhere I go.”

- Do this together several times.

**SAY:** When you need to remember God is with you, do this practice and remember that God goes with you and loves you.