GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Jacob Dreams of a Stairway

Genesis 28:10-22



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jacob discovered God's presence during his journey.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

A Dream on the Journey

Genesis 28:10-22



Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. When the sun went down, he stopped for the night. He took a stone from that place, put it under his head, and lay down to sleep. His journey had brought him far from home. The stone is something already at his stopping place. The account does not describe a house, bed, or host receiving him; it follows Jacob resting where night overtakes his travel.

As Jacob slept, he dreamed of a stairway standing on the earth, with its top reaching heaven. God's angels were going up and down it. God stood above it and spoke to Jacob, identifying himself as the God of Abraham and Isaac. The stairway links the place where Jacob lies with heaven above. The dream's importance comes from God's presence and message, not from Jacob climbing it by his own effort.

God promised the land to Jacob and his descendants. Through his family, all the families of the earth would receive blessing. God also promised to be with Jacob, watch over him on his journey, and bring him back to this land. The promise reached beyond that one night's resting place. The promise joins the older family story to Jacob's own future. Abraham and Isaac are named, and the blessing is again described as reaching families throughout the earth.

Jacob woke with awe. He realized that God was present where he had not expected him. In the morning, he stood the stone upright, poured oil over it, and named the place Bethel. Jacob made a vow about worshiping God and giving a share of what God gave him. Bethel means God's house. By naming the place and marking it with a stone, Jacob gives this night's experience a reminder he can identify after the dream has ended.

Remember: Jacob learned that an ordinary stopping place could be a place of wonder.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Promise at an Unexpected Place

Genesis 28:10-22



The account begins with movement between named places and then stops for one night. That pause becomes the setting for a message Jacob did not arrange. He has not built a grand place of worship before God speaks. The ordinary stopping place becomes important because of what happens there. A reader can notice how the story changes the meaning of a location that first seems merely useful for sleep.

God's words identify him through Abraham and Isaac. Jacob's experience does not begin a completely separate family story. It carries an earlier promise forward, naming land, descendants, and blessing. The descendants are compared with dust for their number, and the promised blessing reaches beyond one household. Jacob hears about a future much larger than the stone beneath his head or the next stage of the road.

Another part of the promise concerns the journey itself. God says that he will be with Jacob, keep him, and bring him back to this land. Jacob wakes and recognizes a presence he had not known was there. His awe belongs to the written account. We do not have to imagine his private thoughts about every angel or describe the stairway's color and shape to understand the wonder of that awakening.

In the morning, Jacob acts. He sets up the stone, pours oil over it, and names the place Bethel. His vow includes food, clothing, a safe return, worship, and giving a tenth. The passage records his response without making it a bargain every reader must copy. This dream and promise belong to Jacob's story. They invite careful attention to his encounter, rather than a rule that every sleeping dream contains a divine instruction.

Pause and think: What makes an ordinary place meaningful when you remember what happened there?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Look at a Familiar Place Again



Think of a place you pass often: a doorway, a school path, or a corner where you read. What memories make it meaningful to you? Someone else might see only an ordinary place until you explain the story connected with it. Draw that place and label one thing you remember. You do not need to build or leave anything there.

People sometimes keep reminders of an important moment. A journal entry can do that without changing a public place or taking something that should remain there. If you wanted to remember a meaningful conversation, what details would be useful to write down? You could include where it happened, who was present, and what was actually said rather than words you only imagine later.

Dreams can be surprising, pleasant, or frightening. Jacob's account does not require you to treat your own dream as a command. If a dream worries you, tell a trusted adult and take time to settle. You can still enjoy the picture in this Bible story while learning to distinguish its particular message from the many ordinary things our minds experience during sleep.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

At an ordinary stopping place, Jacob receives a promise and marks the encounter with a lasting reminder.

What makes an ordinary place meaningful when you remember what happened there?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What did Jacob see in his dream?

2. What did Jacob do with the stone in the morning?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ He dreamed and heard God's promise.
- ☐ He marked the place with the upright stone.
- ☐ Jacob stopped and slept with a stone under his head.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Jacob's dream of the stairway reaching heaven.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Jacob learned that an ordinary stopping place could be a place of wonder.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Genesis 28:16-17

A thoughtful conversation

The dream and promise belong to Jacob's story. Do not suggest that every dream is a message from God or that children should copy Jacob's vow to earn care.

Activity answers

1. A stairway reaching heaven, with angels going up and down.
2. He stood it upright and poured oil on it.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me notice moments of wonder and respond with thanks.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Genesis 28:10-22. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 01_Ge_28_03_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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