

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY- 5/02/12

1. AFTER AWAKENING FROM THE DREAM IN WHICH JACOB SAW THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN WITH ANGELS ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON IT, HE SAID, "SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE, AND I WAS NOT AWARE OF IT. HOW AWESOME IS THIS PLACE! THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HOUSE OF GOD; THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN" (GENESIS: 28:16-17). WHERE OR ON WHAT OCCASION HAVE YOU BEEN MOVED TO EMOTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY JACOB IN THESE VERSES?

2. "JACOB SERVED SEVEN YEARS TO GET RACHEL, BUT THEY SEEMED LIKE ONLY A FEW DAYS TO HIM BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR HER" (GENESIS 29:19). COMPARE JACOB'S LOVE FOR RACHEL WITH THE LOVE CHRIST DEMONSTRATES FOR HIS CHURCH (EPHESIANS 5:25-32).

3. GENESIS 32:24-32 DESCRIBES JACOB'S PERSISTENCE. HE WRESTLED WITH GOD WHO APPEARED IN THE FORM OF A MAN, REFUSING TO STOP WRESTLING WITH HIM UNTIL GOD BLESSED HIM. JACOB'S PERSISTENCE PAID OFF (VERSE 29). WHAT NEEDS OR CONCERNS CONTINUALLY OCCUPY YOUR PRAYER LIFE? HOW MIGHT THE RESULT GOD WORKED IN JACOB'S EXPERIENCE ENCOURAGE YOU?

4. ACCORDING TO GENESIS 35:1-4, HOW DID JACOB AND HIS FAMILY PREPARE FOR WORSHIP? WHAT CONTEMPORARY COUNTERPARTS TO THEIR ACTION MIGHT WE IDENTIFY IN OUR PREPARATIONS FOR WORSHIP?

5. JACOB DEARLY LOVED JOSEPH, PROVIDING HIM WITH A RICHLY EMBROIDERED ROBE (GENESIS 37:3). SOMEWHAT SIMILARLY, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DEARLY LOVES US. WITH WHAT ACCORDING TO GALATIANS 3:26-27, HAS GOD CLOTHED US? WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS ACTION FOR US?

6. WHAT ONE THEME FLOWS THROUGH GENESIS 39:1-23? SEE VERSES 2-3, 5, 21-23. WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT CAN WE FIND IN THESE VERSES FOR THOSE TIMES WHEN WE FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING IS AGAINST US?