

ENGAGE THE WORD
WK1 — Genesis 28:16; 32:22-30
(Facing God: His Presence)

I. ENTER

1. When you hear the words “sacred place,” what do you picture? What makes something a “sacred place” *for you*?

II. EXPLORE

In Genesis 28, Jacob, fearful for his life, is fleeing his brother Esau. His mother has advised him to go hide out in the land of his uncle, out beyond Canaan, the land of promise. As he stops to rest for the night, God appears to him in a dream. Jacob wakes up and says—verse 16—“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”

2. To what extent was Jacob aware of God not only in this place, but *any* place?

3. What does God showing up in that place tell you about his character?

Decades later, Jacob encounters God a second time with the prospect of facing his brother again as he returns to the land of promise. READ GENESIS 32 (all, for context)

4. What kind of state is Jacob in as God shows up again? What state is Jacob in *after* God shows up?

5. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself to Jacob in this kind of situation? What does this say about the kinds of situations where God can be present with us?

III. ENGAGE

Devotion to Jesus

6. How could you be more aware of Jesus’s presence when in the midst of relational conflict?

Deepening in His gospel together

7. How can we help one another notice and rely upon the Holy Spirit with greater regularity?

Declaring His gospel to others

8. How would use Jacob’s story as a way to enter into a spiritual conversation with a non-believer? As you think about this, has anyone come to mind that you could engage in this way?