



"Behold, I am with you and will keep you." Genesis 28:15

### *Bible Study:*



Read Genesis 28 and 29. Consider how God uses this episode in Jacob's life to make him submissive and humble in the eyes of the Lord. Jacob was quite used to getting what he wanted, but in this story, Jacob learns that he has to trust God when things go wrong.

### *The gospel in the story:*



Jacob had a dream in which he saw a staircase stretching between earth and heaven on which angels ascended and descended. He named that place Bethel, which means "house of God." Hundreds of years later, Jesus declared to His disciple Nathaniel "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:51). In this statement, Jesus declares that He is the "ladder" that connects us to God.

Right after his encounter with the LORD, Jacob comes face to face with the brokenness of deception in his own family when Leban deceives him. Someone of the Buddhist faith might say this was Karma for the way Jacob deceived his own father. But the wisdom of God's word insists that it is a picture of God's grace!

### *Application*

#### *Head:* **What did we learn?**

Q: Why did Jacob leave his home? A: To flee from Esau, and to go find a wife

Q: Where did Jacob go to seek a wife A: To Laban's household

Q: Who is Laban? A: Rebekah's brother

Q: What happened to Jacob along the way? A: He had a dream of a ladder stretching to heaven with angels ascending and descending. He named that place Bethel, which means "House of God."

Q: Who are Rachel and Leah? Q: Laban's daughters, who both became Jacob's wives.

Q: How did Laban deceive Jacob? Q: He gave Leah to be Jacob's wife rather than Rachel. Jacob then worked an additional 7 years to earn Rachel's hand in marriage.

#### *Heart :* **Memory verse**

"Behold, I am with you and will keep you."  
Genesis 28:15

#### *Hands:* **How does this affect the way I live?**

Just as Jacob had to trust God when someone sinned against him, we must do the same. God can use hard events in our lives to grow our understanding of our dependence upon Him.

#### *Home:* **How does this affect my household?**

In this story, we see that sin can divide households. But Jesus came and conquered Satan sin and death, so that households can find their identity in Jesus, and stand united in Him.

#### *Heaven:* **How can this help me share my faith?**

The story of God's chosen family is all about God's faithfulness, mercy and grace poured out on people who do not earn it or even deserve it. That is the heart of the gospel message that God wants us to share with an unbelieving world. Jesus is the "ladder" that connects and restores us to the Father.