



Week 1: Stairway From Heaven

We've all faced times of darkness and despair where running from our mistakes seemed better than facing them. This is how Jacob's story really begins, and when he runs out of light, he finds something he never expected and didn't deserve. Genesis 28 reminds us that in our darkest moments, God comes to us, stands beside us, and offers a way back to Him. The question is, how will we respond to such grace?

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Genesis 28:10-22.** Jacob's journey starts with him running away from his problems and deceptions. Can you think of a time when you felt like you were "on the run" in your life? What were you running from?
2. Jacob's dream showed a stairway connecting heaven and earth, with angels going up and down. What does this image communicate to us about God's involvement in our daily lives? How does this encourage you?
3. Jacob wasn't looking for God, but God came to him. How does this mirror your own story of faith? Can you share a time when you felt God pursue you when you weren't seeking Him?
4. Jacob responded by setting up a marker (vs. 18-19) rather than building an altar. What does this say about his commitment at that time? How do you find yourself sometimes falling into the trap of "nodding" to God without fully surrendering?
5. Have you ever bargained with God like Jacob (vs. 20-22)? What was the outcome? How are you currently tempted to bargain with God and what does full surrender look like? What's holding you back?
6. **Read Ephesians 2:1-5.** What is your "But God" moment where He intervened and changed your life? How can you "build an altar" in your life to respond accordingly to God's grace?