

October 4/5, 2003

## Study Questions

*Fear or Faith (Part 1): A Study in the Life of Isaac & Jacob*

### The Place of Salvation

Genesis 28:10-22

#### Opening Discussion

1. Have various members of the group share their own personal testimony of trusting Christ as Savior. What were the circumstances?

What led to that decision?

What has changed since that decision?

2. Since your salvation you've probably had a few of those "aha" moments when something about God and your relationship to Him sinks in and you get it in a way you had never understood it before. Share one or two of those moments in your Christian walk.

What were the circumstances that brought about the "aha"?

How has it changed your life?

#### Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 28:10-22.
2. What changed from the way Jacob had been accustomed to living with his family versus the conditions he now faced?

What are some words that might describe his mental and emotional condition in our text?

3. In a Hebrew narrative it is always important to notice repetition of words or phrases. Notice the repetition of the word "*place*." How many times does it occur in this text?

Do you believe the repetition of the word "*place*" is about physical geography or about the place Jacob found himself in life?

Why was Jacob in this "*place*" in life?

4. In what ways might Jacob's "*place*" in life be similar to where you were when you trusted Jesus as Savior?
5. What is pictured in Genesis 28:12?

What does this picture represent? See John 1:43-51 and 1 Timothy 2:5.

6. God speaks to Jacob in his dream. This is the second time God refers to Himself as the God of Abraham and the first time He refers to Himself as the God of Isaac. Why does God refer to Himself in this way?

Is God's promise to Jacob conditional or unconditional?

Has Jacob just come off a great victory of faith or a great failure of faith?

What does this teach us about God's grace?

7. Genesis 28:18-22 set the stage for many of the events to come in Jacob's life. No matter how difficult things got or how hopeless the circumstances seemed, Jacob could go back to this "*place*" and remember what God promised him. In what ways have you been encouraged by going back to the "*place*" of your salvation in the midst of hard times?
8. Compare Genesis 28:22 with Romans 12:1, 2. What is your "spiritual service of worship" or a reasonable response to God for your salvation by grace through faith?

Given this, what would be an unreasonable response?

## **Application**

1. What did God promise you when you trusted Jesus as Savior?

Has God kept those promises?

Will God keep those promises in the future?

How does that help you cope with the trials you are currently facing?

Name one specific trial and discuss how God's promises directly affect your ability to face that trial.

2. Jacob was willing to give a tenth of all that God would give him back to God as a response to God's promises to him. Paul tells us about a reasonable response in Romans 12. What have you sacrificed for God in response to your salvation?

Does your response reflect a reasonable response to God in light of what He has done for you?

3. Pray for the faith to believe God's promises evidenced in our willingness to give back to God what He's given to us.