




MAYFAIR KIDS

JESUS IS THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 6, September 22



JESUS IS THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

“Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open,
and the angels of God ascending
and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

JOHN 1:51

Jacob was on the run. Before he and his twin brother were born, God told their mother that they would fight with each other. Esau would be born first, but Jacob would come out ahead in the end. He would be the blessed one, and his older brother would serve him.

Jacob—the liar, the trickster—was the son God had chosen to inherit the blessing promised to Abraham and Isaac, the one to bring his blessing to the world. God was going to grab hold of him and make him into

a great nation. God loves to take our hard and deceitful hearts and melt them to use them for his glory.

Jacob had done something so deceitful that his brother Esau wanted to kill him. He had taken Esau’s birthright and blessing right out from under his nose. Esau wanted revenge, and so Jacob fled.

When Jacob stopped for the night with only a stone for a pillow, he went to sleep and had a dream. He saw a giant staircase, starting on the ground and reaching

all the way up to heaven. Angels were going up and down the steps. And then way up at the very top of the stairway was the Lord himself.

The Lord spoke: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring” (Genesis 28:13–14).

Jacob knew these promises! These were the same promises given to his grandfather Abraham! And then God added more—promises that meant a great deal to a runaway heavy with guilt.

“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you” (Genesis 28:15).

Then Jacob woke up. God’s presence had been there! God himself had spoken to him! Had he found the house of God, the gate of heaven itself? What an awesome place he was standing on! He knew he was going to be okay. God would be with him. God had promised his blessing.

Jacob looked at the stone he had used to rest his head. He set it up as a pillar, a standing stone, a way to remember this place. Then he poured oil on it and called the place Bethel, which means “House of God.”

Jacob made a vow that day that God would be his God, and he promised to give a tenth of all he had to him. Then he continued on his journey, trusting God to guide his steps.

Is there really a stairway to heaven, one we could walk up and see God himself? Jesus gives us the answer in the book of John. He said, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man” (John 1:51). Jesus is telling us that he is the stairway. We can’t get to God without him! “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).



REFLECT

1. How many ways are there to get to heaven?
2. How is Jesus like a stairway to heaven?
3. How do you think you would have reacted to the dream if you were Jacob?
4. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself to Jacob when Jacob was such a trickster? What comfort can this bring to us?

BIBLE REFERENCE GENESIS 28:10–22

KEY VERSE JOHN 1:51