

# A Step FURTHER

DIVING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S SERMON

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*A resource of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale for individuals, families, and small groups that offers deeper insights into the previous Sunday's scripture text and sermon.*

**From the Sermon on 5/25/25 "Rocks, Stones, and Remembrance"**

**Scripture:** Genesis 28:10-14, Matthew 16:13-18

**Opening Prayer:** "Redeeming God, we gather today to delve into Your Word and to seek understanding and wisdom. Open our hearts and minds to the lessons You have for us in the stories of Jacob and Peter. May we be inspired to build our lives on the solid foundation of Your truth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

**Understanding the Context:** (Explore aspects of the passage like place, adjacent scripture, and other elements)

1. What was the significance of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28, and how did it impact his journey?
2. In Matthew 16, why was Jesus' question to His disciples about His identity so crucial at that moment?

**Key Themes:** (Rocks, Stones, and Remembrance)

3. How do the images of the ladder in Jacob's dream and the rock in Peter's confession symbolize connection and foundation in our faith?
4. What does the sermon suggest about the importance of remembering and memorializing significant spiritual moments?

**Application and Action:**

5. How can we identify and set up "memorial stones" in our own lives to remember God's faithfulness?
6. In what ways can we ensure that our faith is built on the "rock" of Christ's teachings and not on shifting sands?
7. What steps can you take this week to strengthen your understanding and conviction of who Jesus is in your life?
8. How can you actively engage in remembering and sharing your faith journey with others?

**Group Discussion:**

If you are studying with others, discuss your reflections and insights.

1. Share a personal experience where you felt God's presence in a transformative way. How did it change your perspective or actions?

2. Discuss how the concept of "re-membering" can help heal and restore relationships in your life.

**Closing Prayer:** "Gracious God, thank You for the lessons we have learned today. Help us to remember Your faithfulness and to build our lives on the solid rock of Your Word. May we carry these truths with us and share them with others. Guide us as we seek to live out our faith each day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

**Journal Prompt:**

Reflect on a time when you felt disconnected from God. What "ladder" or "rock" did God provide to help you reconnect? How can you memorialize this experience to remind yourself of God's faithfulness?

