

Plymouth Congregational Church

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN



July 19, 2020

Dear God,

Thanks for today, for this beautiful world, for the health and safety of my friends and family, and for all the things you have given us! Life is better with you and your LOVE! Amen.

Plymouth Children's Prayer



A Stone For a Pillow

based on Genesis 28:10-19a

Setting the environment for a dream story can help children remember that the major action takes place in Jacob's dream.

Darken the area as much as possible. Invite the children to sit or lie in relaxed states. When the mood is established, tell the story.

Esau and Jacob, the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, had a terrible argument when Esau found out that Jacob had tricked their father into giving Jacob the blessing that should have gone to Esau, the oldest son. The blessing would have given Esau all the property and money and the responsibilities that are due the oldest son. Esau was so angry that he said things like he wanted Jacob dead.

So even though Jacob now had all the rights of the oldest son, it was not safe for him to stay at home and claim them. When their mother Rebekah realized how angry Esau was, she looked for Jacob.

"Jacob, my son, it is not safe for you here. Go to Haran, where your father and I grew up. Go to our relatives there."

Jacob knew that his mother was right. It was not safe for him at home. So he started the long journey to Haran.

He reached a certain place by the end of the first day. There was no town or house, so he took one of the stones and used it for a pillow.

He was tired from all that walking and went to sleep right away. As he slept, he began to dream. In his dream, a stairway went from the earth up into the sky. On that stairway, some angels walked up and some walked down. As he watched the angels going up and down, Jacob heard God say, "I am the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah. This land where you are sleeping will be home for you and any family you have, which will be many. Know that I am with you wherever you go. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised."

Then Jacob woke up and said, "This is awesome! Surely God is in this place."

Early the next morning, before Jacob left that certain place, he took the stone that was his pillow and stood it up like a pillar. Jacob poured oil over the stone and named this certain place Beth-el, the house of God.

Creation Corner

Jacob's Ladder Dream

Genesis 28:10-19a



A Sacred Place

Find the words on the list in the word search. Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, and diagonally.

S	H	Z	M	M	E	S	M	A	E	R	D	B	R	I
L	T	Y	A	M	M	A	T	S	S	M	J	M	P	E
E	R	N	O	D	S	C	P	I	J	A	H	L	S	D
C	A	H	A	W	R	R	C	S	C	X	A	I	A	L
I	E	A	G	D	D	E	E	O	A	Y	M	I	L	F
M	J	L	C	O	N	D	B	E	C	O	B	C	U	W
H	F	P	N	K	T	E	S	C	R	A	E	D	E	G
A	E	T	T	P	K	Y	C	P	O	I	S	V	Z	U
V	V	A	O	I	L	O	L	S	A	H	A	K	I	C
B	G	O	V	Q	B	S	Z	U	E	H	C	C	E	X
B	E	T	H	E	L	K	O	G	D	D	R	M	M	N
O	T	F	V	L	N	B	S	L	S	D	I	A	E	U
J	H	R	M	T	W	O	B	K	C	Q	A	P	L	L
T	Y	I	V	L	M	B	T	E	H	S	T	S	O	I
F	H	O	C	U	K	D	D	S	Q	C	S	J	K	A

BETHEL
EARTH
JACOB
SACRED

DESCENDANTS
HEAVEN
OIL
STAIRCASE

DREAM
HOME
PROMISE
STONE



Dreaming with Jacob





Trickery and Lies

In the previous story Jacob and Esau made a swap. Esau swapped his birthright and his inheritance for a bowl of soup. This may seem like a bad swap at first. However, in those days a special blessing was needed to make the inheritance valid. Without the blessing, the swap didn't mean a thing. Esau knew that his father Isaac would not give this special blessing to Jacob, so Esau thought his inheritance was safe. Now the time has come for Isaac to give the special blessing.

Read **Genesis 27:1–4**.

■ **What do you think will happen next?**

Rebekah was listening and told Jacob what she had heard. They planned to trick Isaac. Rebekah made some stew and bread. Then she dressed Jacob in his brother's clothes. She even put goatskin around his arms, so Jacob would feel hairy like his brother Esau. Jacob went to Isaac and lied to his father, assuring Isaac many times that he was Esau. Eventually Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob. The blessing was a very solemn prayer and could not be taken back and given to another person. Now Jacob had the blessing and the inheritance.

■ **What do you think will happen next?**

Esau returned from his hunt, made the food for Isaac, and went to get the blessing. At that terrible moment, both Isaac and Esau realized that Jacob had tricked them.

Read **Genesis 27:41–42**.

■ **Now Jacob is on the run. What do you think will happen next?**



You can pray when you are lying in bed. You can pray when you are sitting in a tree. You can pray when you kneel, and you can pray when you are waiting in line. You can also pray when you are walking, not just as you walk from one place to the next, but when you walk just because you want to pray.

Find a space where you can walk without running into something or someone. Begin to walk slowly, and keep your eyes open so you can see where you are going.

After you have established a comfortable pace, select one of these phrases to say to yourself (silently or quietly aloud):

- ☐ God, be with me.
- ☐ Peace be with me.
- ☐ Jesus, remember me.
- ☐ God is love.
- ☐ The Holy Spirit is with me.
- ☐ Jesus is my friend.

Say the phrase over and over, keeping pace with the way you are walking. After a few moments, you will find yourself walking and saying the phrase without thinking about it. This is a way to prepare yourself to connect with God. As you continue to walk, you can pray with words to God or you can open your mind and heart for God's word to you.



Greetings friends,

During these days of uncertainty, as followers of Jesus, let us remember that we are a HOPE-giving people. Remembering the words of Jesus, "do not be afraid, for I am with you always," we put our trust in the Lord, and in that we find comfort. You are all in my prayers.

If there is anything that I can do for you, please contact me via email at andrea@plymouthmiami.org.

Blessings,

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