

# **Nearer my God to Thee**

## **Life Group Questions**

*Genesis 28: 10-22*

Ice-breaker: Do you usually remember your dreams? Have you had any dreams about God?

Read the passage *Genesis 28: 10-22*. Jacob dreaming about the staircase to heaven. What sticks out to you?

Read the words of the hymn “Nearer My God to Thee”. How does the hymn writer connect Jacob’s story to your life story?

When you think about drawing nearer to God, what are some things that have most helped you in your spiritual life?

What might be your next step of growing in prayer this year? Is there something God is putting on your heart?

What kind of spiritual leadership are you bringing to your family?

What kind of commitment are you making this year?

What are some things you are thankful for this past year?

What is something you are looking forward to in the coming year?

## Genesis 28: 10-22

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran.

<sup>11</sup> And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

<sup>12</sup> And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

<sup>13</sup> And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.

<sup>14</sup> Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

<sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

<sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup> So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

<sup>19</sup> He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

<sup>20</sup> Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,

<sup>21</sup> so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God,

<sup>22</sup> and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

### Nearer My God to Thee

1 Nearer, my God, to thee,  
nearer to thee! E'en though it  
be a cross that raiseth  
me, still all my song shall be,  
nearer, my God, to thee!

2 Though like the wanderer,  
the sun gone down, darkness  
be over me, my rest a  
stone; yet in my dreams I'd  
be nearer, my God, to thee!

3 There let the way appear,  
steps unto heaven; all that  
thou sendest me, in mercy  
given; angels to beckon  
me nearer, my God, to thee!

4 Then, with my waking  
thoughts bright with thy  
praise, out of my stony griefs  
Bethel I'll raise; so by my  
woes to be nearer, my God,  
to thee!

5 Or if, on joyful wing  
cleaving the sky, sun, moon,  
and stars forgot, upward I  
fly, still all my song shall  
be, nearer, my God, to thee!