



Discussion Guide
Encounters — Part 1
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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“We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito.”

[C.S. Lewis]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

Do you remember your dreams? Do you dream in color or black and white?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Lord, You said You draw near to those who draw near to You. We know You are present everywhere, but we want more of You. We want to be close. Help us walk closer to You this week.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

[Joshua 1:9]

BIG IDEA ||

When we are awakened by the reality of God’s presence, it becomes—in increasing measure—a factor in how we live our lives.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

Genesis 28:10-22 in the ESV.

1. What does it look like to live in the presence of God all the time?
2. Imagine you’re walking with God along a path in the woods. The path gets narrow at times, and there are trees overhead and boulders around your feet. Where are you in relation to Him? How close is He?
3. How have you experienced God so far?
4. How can you change the structure of your week to make time to be aware of the nearness of God?
5. God makes a covenant with Jacob here. What are the conditions of it?
6. What is the ladder dream about?.

7. How does Jacob respond or adjust to the reality of the presence of God in this space?
8. On a scale of “coma” to “wide awake and caffeinated” how awake are you to the presence of God?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

We can never outrun God *nor outdo His goodness.*

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How has God covenanted with you? 2) What do you need to commit to God?

PRAYER FOCUS ||

“Awaken our hearts to Your presence. Call us deeper and closer. Guide us along the treacherous steps of life so that we learn to discern Your voice and accept Your hand. Amen.”