

## Secrets to a New Beginning

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Genesis 28:10-22

#### Discussion Questions

1. What specific things are you praying to happen in 2019? Share with the group.
2. Three thousand years ago, a young man faced a new beginning. He was going to start a long journey with uncertain and fearful future. But that night, God revealed to him the secrets of a new beginning. Read Genesis 28:10-22. Jacob was running away from home because his brother Esau was going to kill him for cheating him of his blessings as the first-born son of their parents. Their mother told Jacob to flee. Jacob journeyed to Haran, his mother's hometown, which takes 2-3 months by foot from near Jerusalem. While travelling, he had to pass through Bethel, a rocky and quite dangerous place with wild animals and cold weather. What did Jacob dream about that evening in Bethel?
3. In Jacob's dream, God showed him three secrets of a new beginning:
  - a. **Be centered on the Lord.** Jacob must have been tired from the long walk and the turmoil in his life, but when he lifted up his eyes and saw the vision God showed him, every fear and tiredness must have disappeared. As a Christian, you should center your life on Christ. How can a person possibly love an unseen God? What did He do to make it possible for you to love Him? What does Nehemiah 8:10 says about renewal of your strength? Share how God has renewed your strength in times of troubles or tiredness due to the weight of challenges in life.
  - b. **Believe God's promises (v. 13).** God told Jacob to trust Him just like what his grandfather Abraham and father Isaac did in the past:
    - He is the God in the past. God never changes. Look at your past and see how He cared for you. Share some specific goodness in the past year that God blessed you with.

- He is also the God of the present (v. 15). Jacob was running away from home with an unknown future, but God comforted him. God is omnipresent. What did God tell him in verse 15? How does God comfort you when you need it? What is your greatest need right now that you pray God would meet?
  - He is also the God of the future (v. 15). What are the promises that God pledged to Jacob in verse 15? If you were in Jacob's situation, how would God's promises encourage you in your journey? What promise from Scripture would you like to claim for yourself and your family in 2019?
- c. **Make commitments with the Lord (v. 18-22).** Jacob believed in God's Word, and as a response to God's Word he acted right away. What was the vow that He made to God? God has made many promises to you in His Word. How would you respond to Him? Share what you can promise to do for God this year. Would you trust God that He would help you to honor that promise?

### Walk

The secrets to a new beginning were revealed to Jacob, and to you as well, in the Scripture. Be centered on the Lord. Believe His promises. Make commitments with God. As you start the new year, are the words of the song *Trust and Obey* true for you? *"Trust and obey; for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."* Would "trust and okay" be your motto for the new year, meaning that you let go and let God direct your life as you face new challenges this year? How would you center your life on Him?

### Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, You indeed are the God in the past, right now, and in the future. You are ever present at all times, both in good and bad times. Thank you that I can truly rely on You because You are my awesome, loving and caring Heavenly Father. May You be with me as I live out my faith among the people I am with daily. That they would see You in me because I trust and obey You. May this year be a time of learning to fully trust You in all aspects of my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.*