

NOTES

Be Still.

Simple, transformative practice
of being with God.

WEEK 3 | Wonder

PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we gather together in Your name, grateful for Your presence among us. Holy Spirit, we invite You to come and have Your way within our gathering. Open our hearts and minds to hear from You, to be transformed by Your word, and to experience Your love in a profound way. May Your presence fill this place and each of us, guiding our conversations and drawing us closer to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"If you could choose any fictional character to meet for the first time, who would it be and why? And what would your first words to them be?"

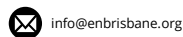


EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2023 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.



WORD

"10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 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. 12 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! 13 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. 14 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. 15 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.' 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.' 17 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.'"

[Genesis 28:10-17 \(ESV\)](#)

This passage from Genesis 28:10-17 is a powerful reminder of the importance of being aware of God's presence in our lives. Jacob, on his journey, stops to rest and has a divine encounter where he sees a ladder reaching to heaven with angels ascending and descending. In this moment, God reaffirms His promises to Jacob and assures him of His presence and protection. When Jacob wakes up, he realises that he had been unaware of God's presence all along, prompting him to acknowledge the holiness of the place.

In our daily lives, we often rush through our routines, missing out on the profound reality that God is with us. This passage encourages us to pause and recognise that God is present, even when we don't immediately perceive it. We lose our sense of WONDER. It is important that we take time to reflect on His presence as he helps us to ground ourselves in His promises, seeking His guidance, and moving forward with the assurance that He is with us. We should cultivate a habit of stopping to notice God's presence, as it leads to deeper awareness and gratitude, transforming our outlook and actions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

****AWARE of HIS PRESENCE - "Surely the LORD was in this place and I was unaware of it."****

1. Can you recall a time when you realized in hindsight that God was present in a situation you were going through? How did this realization change your perspective?
2. How can taking time to observe and appreciate God's creation and wonder help you become more aware of His presence in your life?
3. How does knowing that God is with you and has a plan for your future give you hope? How can this hope influence your decisions and actions? (You can also look at Romans 15:12)
4. Why is it important to express thankfulness to God regularly? Share something you are thankful for and how this gratitude has led you to worship.

"Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I need You in my life. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again to give me new life. I invite You to be my Lord and Saviour. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, guide me, and lead me as I leave my old life behind and step into the new life You have for me. Help me to be aware of Your presence each day and to follow You wholeheartedly. In Your mighty name, I pray. Amen."

Encourage the group to carry the awareness of God's presence into their daily lives and to continually seek moments to stop, notice, and give thanks.