

The Anchor in the Middle

In the middle of Jacob's discomfort, God gave him his greatest revelation. The middle is a hard place to be, but it is often the place where we see God the most. He puts a label of purpose and promise over our situation, gifting us an anchor to hold onto during the hard times.

Thinking Points:

1. Jacob was on a journey between Beersheba and Harran. He was somewhere in the middle - moving from his past mistakes, but not yet where he wanted to be. Are you in the middle of a similar journey - perhaps in your relationships, health, finances, parenting, recovery...?
2. In Jacob's dream, God makes him two promises: A promise of purpose and a promise of His presence. These promises become Jacob's anchor. An anchor that God extends to you too.

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Genesis 28:10-22.

Promise 1: Purpose - what you are going through is not only for yourself. This middle's purpose will have ripples.

Promise 2: Presence - I will not leave you! I will help you accomplish the task I have given you.

3. What does Jacob say after his dream?

4. When and where do you think God was working?

The ORDINARY things in our life carry EXTRAORDINARY spiritual significance

We spend so much time asking God to be with us, even though He's already there. Perhaps we could pray this prayer: *'Lord, open my eyes and wake me up to the reality of your presence in the middle.'*

5. If we know God is there, we can be intentional in seeking Him out.

Next Steps

Read verse 16, then consider how the ordinary in your life carries extraordinary spiritual significance.

Nowhere | Now here

The places that you want to move away from, because you might consider them too challenging, or too trivial, are the places where God is walking alongside you the closest.

1. Get some Sleep → God can do more in your sleep than you can do in your striving.
2. Make some commitments → What kind of a person do you want to be in your middle?
3. Name your Middle → Learn to live fully in the here in the now. Don't consistently yearn for the future. To a certain extent your life is a series of middles.

Regardless of what your middle is, God is offering an anchor; a promise of purpose and presence. We choose whether or not to drop the anchor. What life will you going to carve in your middle?