

The Lord is in this place

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob is alone and on the run, having deceived his father and stolen Esau's birthright and blessing. As he rests for the night, Jacob dreams of a ladder, connecting heaven with earth. Jacob realises that he has encountered God in this spot and marks the place, naming it Bethel.

Read this week's passage:



Decorate 'prayer stones' with short prayers, Bible verses or devotional images and leave these around your community for people to find.



BAKE



Bake some yummy rock cakes as a great picnic snack and a way to remember Jacob's marker.

WALK

Where have you encountered God? Plan a pilgrimage linking your holy places and travel between them – try to use sustainable means if you can! You could set a specific prayer intention for each one.

Find more free Roots resources
to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he 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.' Genesis 28:18

Jacob has an amazing experience of God during the night and wakes up wanting to remember it. He takes the stone he was using as a pillow and sets it up as a pillar – something that will remind him in weeks and months to come of what God said to him and promised him in that place.

What are the places that you go to where you feel more aware of God's presence? Is it in a church building, when you are with other Christians, or joining others in prayer or Bible study? If you have a regular routine of spiritual devotion, you might be more aware of God when you do that (such as first thing in the morning) but easily forget that he is with you at all other times of your day – on the bus, walking or driving, at school or work or doing the shopping, while you wash up or vacuum or as you chat with a friend on the phone. God is in all of these places.

What might you be able to do to help you recognise God's presence at different times of your day and week?

First impressions

- Where do we expect to encounter God?
- Where else might God want to meet with you?
- What does it feel like when we meet with God?



Pray



Lord, thank you that you are in this house.
Help us to know that you are with us,
whether we feel tired and anxious,
or peaceful and content.
May each of us encounter your presence.
Amen.

Pray



Write prayers on sticky notes and place them around the house – the bathroom mirror, next to the sink, on the car dashboard, next to where you keep your keys. Use them as prayer reminders as you go about your day. For example: 'Lord God, help me to know you are with me, every step I take today.' 'God, thank you for your safety, protect me as I go on this journey.' 'Lord Jesus, may I know your peace as I sleep tonight.'