



Week 2

Dealing with the Divine

Takeaway:

We do not get to define the terms of our relationship with God

Before You Begin:

If you could be on any gameshow, what would it be and why?

Discussion Questions:

1. Background: Jacob has already lied and manipulated his way into an enemy. His mother, in an effort to save his life sends him back to her hometown to find a wife. On his way he spends the night and has a dream.
2. **Read Genesis 28:10-15.** Share a story about the weirdest dream you've ever had. Have you ever had a dream you couldn't understand? Have you ever thought God has given you a dream?
3. How does it make you feel that in spite of all of Jacob's poor decisions, God still promises to fulfill his promises to Abraham through Jacob? What does this say about God?
4. **Read Genesis 28:16-19.** All of this sounds good, but this is all a part of the culture of the day. Jacob is just imitating what the people around him in pagan cultures would have done. What do you think Jacob's attitude here is?
5. **Read Genesis 28:10-22.** Why do you think Jacob feels the need to make a deal with God? Have you ever felt the need to make a deal with God? What were the circumstances surrounding that? How did that work out for you?
6. Why do you think it is in our nature to work out conditional agreements with God?
7. What obligation is God under to accept our deals? What leverage do we have to make them?
8. Why do you think it is easier to try to make a deal with God than to just trust Him?

Next Steps:

1. Where have you been tempted to make a deal with God?
2. What can you do to elevate your trust level with God?