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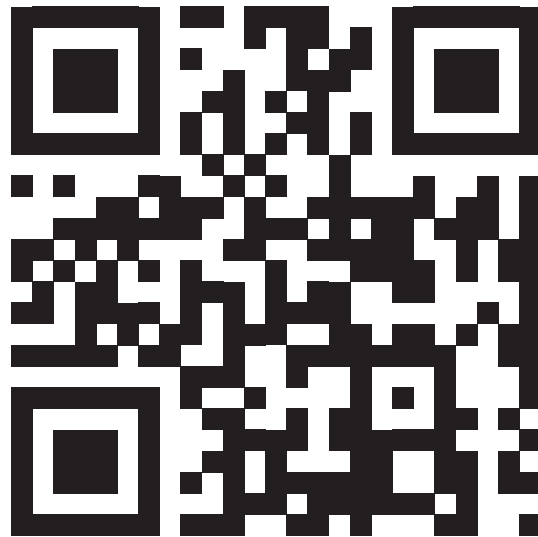
GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

Has your Life Group gotten together to sign up to volunteer for the Egg Hunt yet? Please discuss ways you can get involved either by volunteering or by donating candy! Our Egg Hunt is the biggest community outreach we do all year that reaches the most unchurched population. Our opportunity to show people the love of Jesus for the first time is awesome!

Scan the code to sign up to volunteer





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GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

Week 27 | Experiencing God | Genesis 28:1-22

EXPERIENCED: TO HAVE A FIRM GRASP ON SOMETHING DUE TO REPEATED TRIAL OR TESTING

The etymology of the word 'experience' is fascinating. The word comes from the Latin word *experientia* which means, "a trial, proof, experiment; knowledge gained by repeated trials." It's a compound word formed by the prefix *ex* which means "out of" and *peritus* which means "tested, to try, risk." When we apply that to our relationship with God it means to gain a knowledge of God by repeated trials and testing. I like that, don't you? God wants to be experienced! As we experience Him over the course of time, we mature in our relationship with Him. God isn't an idol made of wood or stone; He is the living God! We learn His character, His ways, His plans, His faithfulness and so much more as we walk with Him day by day. Of all there is to experience in this life there is nothing that matches experiencing God!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time in prayer to ask God for a deeper experience with Him. Be willing to let God take you where He wants you to go. Be willing to be obedient to all that He calls you to.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Jacob had to begin to move towards God in obedience to experience Him. He took steps to follow the command that God gave to Abraham and Isaac about choosing a wife from Abraham's family, and God met Him as he took steps of obedience.

What steps of obedience is God calling you to take in order for you to experience Him? Are there steps you've resisted taking? Delayed obedience will hinder your experience of God.

Obedience is the key that opens every door.
C.S. Lewis

2. When God spoke to Jacob, He was inviting Jacob to a personal relationship. He met Jacob in real, concrete ways. For the Christian, God has invited us to relationship through the cross of Jesus, the most concrete expression of God's love.

Describe the initial steps of faith in Christ that you took. Share those early steps with the group. How have you been growing and maturing in your faith since those early steps? Describe.





It's God's intention based on His eternal purpose for you to experience Him.

3. God's invitation to experience Him requires a response. Jacob could have had the dream and heard God's voice in the vision and left Luz unaffected, but he didn't. He memorialized the moment and committed Himself to God. His life was never the same after the experience at Luz, which he renamed Bethel.

Describe how your experiences with God have changed your life.

If you have a real experience with God, you can't remain unchanged.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Romans 9:26

And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,'
There they shall be called sons of the living God.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be willing to remove any roadblock that is keeping you from experiencing all that God has for you.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear what roadblocks you removed and how that led to a fresh experience of God.

