

5-Day Devotional: From Owner to Steward

Day 1: The God Who Meets Us in Unexpected Places **Reading: Genesis 28:10-22** **Devotional:** Jacob fled from home as a fugitive, lying on a stone pillow in the wilderness. Yet it was precisely there—in his vulnerability and isolation—that God chose to reveal Himself. Like Jacob, we often encounter God not in our moments of strength, but in our weakness. When we reach the end of ourselves, we discover God has been present all along. The "God of our fathers" becomes our own personal God through these intimate encounters. Today, consider where you might be running from or what stone pillow you are lying on. God is already there, waiting to transform your understanding of who He is. His presence makes any place holy ground.

Day 2: The Promise of Divine Presence **Reading: Psalm 139:1-12** **Devotional:** God's promise to Jacob was simple yet profound: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go." This wasn't a guarantee of comfort or ease, but of companionship and protection. David echoes this truth in Psalm 139—there is nowhere we can flee from God's presence. Whether in the heights of success or the depths of failure, God remains faithful. The question is not whether God is with us, but whether we recognize His presence. Jacob awoke saying, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was unaware of it." How often do we miss God's presence because we are not looking for it? Today, practice awareness of God's presence in ordinary moments.

Day 3: From Self-Reliance to God-Dependence **Reading: Proverbs 3:5-12** **Devotional:** Jacob's entire life had been marked by scheming and manipulation—relying on his own cunning to secure blessings. But God's dream-encounter shattered this self-reliance. Proverbs calls us to "trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." This is the steward's mindset: recognizing that our wisdom, strength, and resources ultimately come from God. The owner mentality says, "I built this; I deserve this; I control this." The steward acknowledges, "God entrusted this to me; how does He want me to use it?" Examine your life today. Where are you still operating as an owner rather than a manager? What would change if you truly surrendered control to the rightful Owner?

Day 4: Everything Belongs to God **Reading: Psalm 24:1-10; Haggai 2:6-9** **Devotional:** "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it." This foundational truth revolutionizes how we view our possessions, time, relationships, and even ourselves. We are not owners but stewards—entrusted with God's resources to manage according to His purposes. The silver and gold are His. Our very bodies, purchased by Christ's blood, belong to Him. This isn't restrictive; it's liberating. When we stop clutching what was never ours to begin with, we experience the freedom of open hands. We become partners with God in His redemptive work rather than hoarders building our own kingdoms. Today, take inventory: What are you holding with clenched fists? What would it look like to hold those things with open hands before God?

Day 5: Living for the Judgment Seat of Christ **Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Matthew 25:14-30**
Devotional: One day, every believer will stand before Christ—not to be condemned for sin, but to give account for our stewardship. This isn't meant to terrify us but to focus us. How have we used the time, talents, and treasures God entrusted to us? The parable of the talents reveals God's expectation: faithful management that produces fruit for His kingdom. Like Jacob, who vowed to give God a tenth of all he received, we must decide whether we will live as owners or stewards. C.S. Lewis reminds us that everything—every breath, every ability—already belongs to God. Our calling is simple: manage His resources faithfully until He returns. What will Jesus find when He examines your life? Today, make one decision that reflects stewardship over ownership.