

Sermon Outline - Sun, January 10th, 2021 – Sacred Dreaming
(Genesis 28:10-22; Acts)

Overview – Last Sunday, we finished our series Stay on the Light with the sermon topic, Follow the Dream. Our exploration of the Wise Men’s dream was a bridge from our advent conversation about following the star to our January conversation about Vision. Our theme for this month is Sacred Dreaming. It is worth remembering our three points about dreaming from last week (1. Go to Sleep, Pay Attention to Your Dreams, Commit to Going a Different Way.)

Story Exegesis

- Jacob is the son of Isaac and Rebekah. Born into a family of the covenant and an extra heaping of dysfunction. Pattern of favoritism that causes deep conflict. (Abraham w/ Isaac & Ishmael). (Isaac w/ Rebekah & Leah). That also flows to Jacob and Esau (inheritance stealing in the chapter right before this.)
- Now he is being sent to his uncle Laban’s house to find a wife.
- He begins his journey and when it is clear that the sun is going to set he decides to stop, he finds a rock to use as a pillow and he goes into a deep sleep where God gives him a dream that he will go up a ladder

Key Points –

1. You don’t have to be all together for God to give you a vision. Jacob came from a hot mess family and in the chapter before he was cheating his brother. If God would use him we should rest assured that God can use us. We don’t have to get everything together to receive a vision and we have to watch out self-doubt that might make us feel unworthy and therefore we don’t seek God.
2. Sometimes you need lean into the hard places to create an opening for God to speak. Jacob puts his head on a rock, not grass or a plant. Sometimes we have to lean into hard places in our life to open up space for God to speak. Sometimes it is those tough realizations that open space for God to reveal what we are called to.
3. You have to create the quiet dreamspace to hear God speak. In sleep, if we allow ourselves to get enough, we quiet ourselves down allowing God to speak. We can also create dream space while awake through meditation and stillness, God won’t always yell through our noise.

Now more than ever we need people of bold vision in our communities, our country and our world. In 2021 what will it take for us to create space for God to speak to us and empower us to reach for bold visions.

Core Questions –

1. Do you believe you deserve a vision from God? Are there any doubts about your worthiness that block you from seeking God or from hearing God speak?
2. Is there a hard place that you need to lean into? In your family, something in your past that you need to address to allow you to be more open to hearing from God?
3. What is your dreamspace – the quiet time when you are open to hearing from God?