



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

God Family Country

Bethel v Peniel

Speaker: Pastor Alan Brooks

Highlighted Scripture

Genesis 28:16–17 (NIV)

“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.’

He was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.’”

Genesis 32:30 (NIV)

“So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.’”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV)

“Pray continually.”

Discussion Questions

- 1. Jacob had two very different encounters with God – one at Bethel and one at Peniel. How would you describe the difference between an informational encounter and a relational encounter with God?**
- 2. Alan explained that many of us go weekly to “Bethel” (church) to learn about God. What might it look like for you personally to seek daily “Peniel” moments – face-to-face time with God?**
- 3. The speaker described Peniel as “cheek to cheek,” emphasizing intimacy rather than distance. What usually prevents us from**

experiencing that kind of closeness with God?

4. Alan shared how knowing about someone is different from truly knowing them. In your own walk with Christ, where do you feel you are right now – learning about Him, knowing Him personally, or growing deeper in that relationship?

5. The CPR acronym was given as a practical way to prioritize God's presence:

- **Community**
- **Prayer**
- **Reading the Word**

Which of these do you feel strongest in right now, and which one needs more intentional focus?

Reflection Challenge

This week, ask yourself honestly:

- **Am I making room for God's presence, not just information about Him?**
- **Do I approach prayer as a continual conversation or only an occasional request?**
- **Am I spending time in God's Word as a way to know Him, not just study Him?**

Remember:

- ★ **Information about God is good**
- ★ **Relationship with God is better**
- ★ **God desires closeness, not distance**

Prayer

Lord,

Thank You for inviting us into more than just knowledge about You. Help us not settle for distant or occasional encounters, but to seek You daily – face to face.

Teach us to prioritize Your presence through community, prayer, and Your Word.

Draw us closer to You, and transform us through a real, living relationship

with You.

We want to know You, not just know about You.

Amen.

