

Small Group Notes

Date: 16th April 2023 (Feltham)

Sermon series: Moments of Encounter

Talk title: God is in this place

Speaker: Jason Kaiser

Bible Text: Genesis 28:10-17

Welcome

How are you doing?

How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week? What have you sensed Him saying to you?

Worship

Start by spending some time in worship together. If you have a worship leader(s) in the group, ask them to lead worship. Alternatively, we have compiled a couple of playlists with a range of songs for you to use during worship and ministry.

[Youtube Playlist](#) [Spotify Playlist](#)

1) **Some opening questions:**

For those there on Sunday, what do you remember being said? Importantly, what did Jesus say to you & how did you respond? (encourage people to share personally)

2) **Read bible text aloud in the group**

- *What jumps out to you from this passage of scripture?*

3) **Talk summary**

1. God can meet us anywhere - Jacob is on the run, far away from home, family, his life... He is uncomfortable - he is using a rock as a pillow! It is here that God meets with him...
2. When we have an encounter:
 1. God reveals who he is (v13)
 2. He confirms his promises to his people (v14)
 3. Brings us to a response - Worship, generosity (16-17, 20-22)
3. 'Surely you are in this place' - Have you ever had a moment like this?

4) **Questions for application (2-3 questions max.)**

- 'Surely you are in this place' - Have you ever had a moment like this?
- Thinking about Jacob's life, Jacob encounters God in an uncomfortable place. What unusual places have you encountered God?

- How is God revealing himself to you at the moment?
- What is your response to God? (16-17, 20-22)

5) Prayer ministry

Spend time praying for each other. The goal here is to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than intercessory prayer. We believe that the Holy Spirit is present and able to change and heal right now!

The follow the model below is based on how Jesus prayed for people. It's not a formula but a model we've found extremely helpful. As we demonstrate it, others will "catch it".

There are 3 simple steps: **ASK – PRAY – ASK**

- i) **ASK** – ask the person what they're asking Jesus to do for them
And ASK the Holy Spirit what He is wanting to do
- ii) **PRAY** – like Jesus did, pray your best prayers. Invite the Holy Spirit to come, and then wait. As pray-ers, let's keep our eyes open to see what the Holy Spirit is doing
- iii) **ASK** – what's happening? If the pain was a 10 out of 10 when they walked in tonight, ask them what they would score the pain now? What are the next steps? Thank God and ask for more. You may find it helpful to go through these steps 2-3 times.

To ponder or pray about this week...

Suggest a question or activity to take away and do during the week to help in the process of reflection and application.

Some tips for leading a small group Bible discussion:

- *Leading a good Bible discussion is primarily about asking good questions - it's more art than technique and has to be learned "on the job"*
- *We're aiming for self disclosure and application rather than theoretical discussion.*
- *Recognise that people are on a journey - they may be exploring faith or been following Jesus for years.*
- *It may be helpful to start with a lighter ice breaker question, then press in a bit deeper*
- *Open questions are good - "What, How, What if..."*
- *Ask questions that require more than a yes/no answer*
- *Ask questions that are neither insultingly easy nor bewildering obscure!*
- *Supplementary questions are really important - ensure people are grasping meaning rather than trotting out mechanical answers*
- *Supplementary questions have to be asked in the moment, but preparation helps to anticipate various replies*
- *Some helpful questions could include... how does that tie in with the rest of the*

passage? Can you give an example of that? How do you think this could work out in our lives?

- *Avoid leaving people thinking "so what?!"*
- *Remember that all roads in scripture lead to Jesus!*