

SHOW US THE FATHER

- Our Word for 2022:

Fathers

A Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

Mothers

I Investment - Involvement - Interaction

L Look Around!

Y You

- **John 14:1-12** 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking me to show him to you?"
- **Very different contrast:**
- What is God really like? Some people think the most important question of life is "Do you believe in God?" But a more important question is "What kind of God do you believe in?"
 - Some people picture God as a task master who gets great joy out of disciplining His people when they make a mistake. He has a bunch of rules in force that no one believes they can accomplish so they feel that He is always mad at us and correcting us.
 - Others picture God as a buddy. He will forgive anything no matter what you do or how you act. In the end, all go to heaven because a loving God "would never send anyone to hell"

Wrestling With A Holy God

- Have you ever thought about our struggles or wrestling's with God?
- Have you ever thought about Biblical accounts of those who have wrestled with God?
- God is Holy, Holy, Holy, He is high above us, He is superior in every way, there is nothing and no one to compare Him!
- **Jacob** – His name means “supplanter”.
- He was the man who deceived his father, conned his brother, and entered into an ungodly conspiracy with his mother.

Let the Journey begin:

- **Genesis 28:10-12** Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. 11 At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep.
- **Genesis 28:12-15** As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway. 13 At the top of the stairway stood the Lord, and he said, "I am the Lord, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. 14 Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. 15 What's more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything, I have promised you."

- It seems strange in a way that a son of Isaac, and the grandson of Abraham would not have a real God awareness! Think about our children. Many of us have had real and powerful encounters with God.
- We can share the stories of our encounters, but unless people have an encounter of their own, our transcendent God can seem ions away!
- The stairway in the dream was a contact point.
- What about a contact point today?
- **John 1:45-51** Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." 46 "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. 47 As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity." 48 "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you."

49 Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus asked him, "Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? **You will see greater things than this.**" 51 Then he said, "**I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.**"
NLT

- Jesus declared that He is the ladder of Jacob; He's the bridge between heaven and earth; He is the one who spans the chasm between the transcendent one and us as humans. The angels of God ascended and descended on him. He makes the absent God present among us.

The Dream

- vs. 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" 17 But **he was also afraid** and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

vs. 18 The next morning Jacob got up very early. He took the stone he had rested his head against, and he set it upright as a memorial pillar. Then he poured olive oil over it. **19** He named that place Bethel (**which means "house of God"**), although the name of the nearby village was Luz.

- God is always present, even if we aren't aware of it.
- God's presence doesn't always result in conversion.
 - **vs. 20** Then Jacob made this vow: "If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, **21** and if I return safely to my father's home, then the Lord will certainly be my God. **22** And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me." NLT
 - If God does what he said, **THEN** the Lord will be my God!
 - How many people still approach the Lord in this way?

