

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Leaving and Awakening

*October 26 & 27, 2019*

We leave the home and discover God in places we least expect. The journey of leaving home is both a physical and an emotional reality that shapes our journey. Sometimes this important step of growing independence forces upon us the reality of our dependence upon God – a major step in our spiritual formation. When did you leave home, and how did you come awake to God’s presence?

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: GENESIS 28:10-22

Read the scripture text together as a group.

#### BACKGROUND INFO

In the passage from Genesis, we have an early biblical narrative of what we’ve come to understand as God sightings. Jacob is on his way toward Haran and stops to rest for the night. In his dream he encounters God with a powerful message of hope and assurance culminating in verses 15 and 16: “Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!”

From the Mega Sale to far flung mission trips we often ask the question “Where did you see God at work?” It takes spirited sensitivity to become aware of these moments. Like our eyes adjusting to the light or the darkness, we have to train ourselves to be aware of God (in both the light and dark places). There is a caveat however. “God sightings” leaves the door open to the idea that if we don’t see God (or don’t know how to talk about it, that, those...), it’s easy to think that God was not at work, or worse, “didn’t show up.” But God is *always* at work and always present and always in, with and for us.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe an experience in your life where, like Jacob, your eyes were opened to God’s presence in a new light. What was that like for you? How did you know it was God’s presence?
- How do you handle times when it feels like God is absent or quiet?
- What strategies help you recognize God’s presence, even when it’s a struggle?

**APPLICATION:** This week, reflect on a time when you experienced God in your story and you didn’t initially realize it. How can you look for more “God Sightings” in your daily life?