Introduction: A key idea in today’s Sunday School material is that Jacob had a dream that led to him making a vow to serve the Lord. Prayerfully, we will be challenged to serve the Lord because of how good the Lord has already been to us.

Body:
Read Genesis 28:10-15
I. Moving Away. Jacob was on his way to Harran. He fell asleep and had a dream. There was a staircase between Earth and Heaven, with angels descending and ascending. The Lord confirmed He would do great things for and through Jacob, as a continuation of what was promised to Abraham and Isaac.

Applications –
- God’s blessings for sinful Jacob. Notice in vss. 12-15 that God had blessings for Jacob, despite his many sins. In like manner, we should fight the temptation to waddle in our past failures. God can do a great work in and through our lives today and tomorrow, despite all of our past sins. Furthermore, God can bless and use others, despite their past sins. This should move us to be open to God doing new and blessed things in and through our lives and the lives of others, despite past failures. Let’s work on trusting God’s ability to do a new thing.

- Being a blessing to others. Notice in vs. 14 that God had a plan to bless other people through the life of Jacob. In like manner, God has plans to bless others through the lives of each of His disciples. A great reason for you to live your best life is so God can not only bless you, but so God can bless others through you. Let’s work on letting God bless others through us.

- We still have the Lord. Notice in vs. 15 that even though Jacob was distant from his family, he was in the presence of God. In like manner, we should be thankful that God allows us into His presence, even when there is distance between us and others. Divorce, break up among friends, and other types of relational drama doesn’t keep us from experiencing God’s presence. As long as we have the Lord, we can go a little further. Let’s live like we know the value of experiencing God’s presence. This kind of living should be known for joy, obedience, and hope.

Read Genesis 28:16-19
II. Marking the Place. When Jacob woke up, he was afraid. He discerned being in a holy place. He used the stone pillow as a pillar and place to reverence the Lord.

Applications –
- God’s presence. Notice in vss. 16-19 that Jacob was conscious of the Lord’s presence. On one hand, we may feel as if God is more present in our churches than in other places. But on the other hand, God is omni-present (every where at the same time). Let’s live like we are in God’s presence. Being in His presence should move us to be mindful of God’s will for our lives and to be obedient to such.
- **Dreams and the Bible.** Notice in vss. 16-19 that Jacob had a dream. Even though God may illuminate, explain, elaborate, or even inspire through a dream, today, we should remember that the Bible is authoritative truth. The best way to know God and His will for our life is to prayerfully study and obey the Bible. Dreams are secondary. *Let’s live like we believe the Bible is authoritative truth.* This should lead to prayerful study and obedience.

**Read Genesis 28:20-22**

**III. Making a Vow.** Jacob makes a vow. He determines if the Lord would take care of him and bring him back to his father’s house then the Lord would be his God. The pillar will be God’s house. And he would tithe to the Lord.

**Applications –**

- **God has done enough.** Notice in vss. 20-22 that Jacob talks about how God will be his God, after God does some more things for him. For us, God has already done enough. God doesn’t have to jump through anymore hoops and do anymore great things. *Let’s live like God has done enough for Him to be our God and for us to honor Him with our tithes and offerings.* Too many say that He is God but don’t behave as if He is God. The greatest measure of our appreciating God is our obedience to His will.

**Conclusion:** Let’s work on serving the Lord because of how good the Lord has already been to us. God has much for those who obey His will.