

Today's Bible Verse: Genesis 28:17 (NIV)

"This is the gate of heaven."

In the great family that started with Abraham and Sarah, there were many men who talked with God. One of these was Abraham's grandson. His name was Jacob.

We know a bit about Jacob from last week's story, when he took the older-son birthright from his brother Esau. Last Sunday, downstairs, we completed a picture of Esau trading his birthright for Jacob's soup.

We know that Jacob left his home, left his father Isaac and his mother Rebekah and his twin Esau. He set off through the desert, to live with Rebekah's brother Laban.

Our story begins as Jacob is traveling in the desert. He comes to Bethel and stops there. He lays his head on a rock to sleep. And that is where Jacob has a famous dream.

In Jacob's dream, he sees a ladder that goes from earth all the way to heaven. Angels are climbing up and down the ladder. God is at the top of the ladder. And God speaks down to Jacob. God tells Jacob that He will bless Jacob's people and will bring them back to live on this same land.

Then Jacob wakes up. Because of the dream, he says, "This place is the Gate of Heaven". He prays for God to keep him safe and to keep this special place. And Jacob promises to worship God all his life.

Years later, Jacob returns home with a large family. As Jacob travels back to Isaac and Esau, he meets more angels and talks to God again. God gives Jacob another name- Israel.

And Jacob Israel keeps his promises to God and God blesses his family.

Wonder Question: I wonder how I would react if I had dreamed about angels climbing up and down a ladder?

Jacob had a vision of a ladder that reached up to heaven. The steps on the ladder represent our covenants with God, which bring us closer to Him.

