

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

The Gift of Giving – Ian France – 14.6.2026

Scripture

Genesis 28:10-22; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Genesis 28:10-22

As Jacob travelled east towards Haran in the land that had belonged to Abraham, he had a dream. He dreamt of a ladder stretching up to heaven, and he saw angels climbing up and down. He realised there was direct access to heaven and interaction between heaven and earth. God spoke to him in the dream. Jacob had known about the Covenant between God and his family, but this was the first time he had personally encountered God.

The event would change his life. God explained the covenant to him. He would be given a land, his descendants would become a nation, and they would bless all people. God would be with him and would bring him back to this land where he had spent the night. He would not leave him until all He had spoken about had been accomplished. (At the end of his life, Jacob testified that God had been with him as He had promised, and it is recorded he passed on the blessing to his family (Genesis 31:5; 48:21)

When Jacob woke, he realised that God was in that place. It was not yet understood that God is everywhere, but Jacob had been aware of God's presence in the place where he had slept. He called the place Bethel and made a pillar of the stone that had been his pillow to commemorate the event. It seemed as if he couldn't quite believe what God had promised him. He promised a tenth of all his income *if* God would, in fact, be with him, and he asked God to supply him with food and clothing, as if he were bargaining with him.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote about the generosity of other churches in Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea, all of which were in Macedonia. These churches were all very poor, but they still gave generously to help the Christians in Jerusalem. Paul testified that whilst these churches had not given a great deal in monetary value, they had given freely and

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690

GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za
P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191

Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake
www.gracepoint.co.za



GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

willingly, beyond their ability to give. They had begged Paul to pass the gift on to the church in Jerusalem. They realised that it was a privilege to give, even though they did not have much themselves. In fact, Paul said they gave far more than he had imagined they could. He told the Corinthians that the Macedonian Christians were able to do this because they had first given themselves to the Lord, and they trusted Paul and his companions.

Icebreaker:

What gift have you given that has brought you the most joy? What was the response of the recipient? How did you feel when you gave it?

Application

- What needs are you most willing to give to? Why? Do you tend to give to them spontaneously, or do you plan your giving? How much attention do you pay to how your gift is used?
- What part does gratitude play in your giving? What is your Bethel experience of God's goodness and giving? How have you responded to His generosity?
- Given the choice, would you rather have funds to save or to give? Have you ever given beyond the limits of what you think you can afford? How did you feel? What were the consequences?
- The early church in Jerusalem believed Jesus would return soon, and they had been generous in sharing their possessions to the extent of poverty, as time passed. How would you feel about financially supporting such a group of people when times were hard for you, too? Would you be willing or reluctant to do so? Why?
- When do you experience the joy of giving? Do you see it as a privilege to give?
- Giving does not have to be a great financial donation; it can be small acts of kindness. How often are you kind? What do you do to be generous to others in small ways through acts of kindness?
- Where do you see your generosity making a difference in your community? How does that make you feel?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690

GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH

Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za

P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191

Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake

www.gracepoint.co.za



GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

Prayer

Pray for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.

Service

This week, make a point of being generous through small acts of kindness to those around you.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/genesis-28/>

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/2-corinthians-8/>



THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
PBO Reg. No. 18/11/13/690
GRACEPOINT METHODIST CHURCH
Tel: 011 702 4600 Emergency no.: 076 498 2088 WhatsApp Connect: 071 892 9382 E-mail: info@gracepoint.co.za
P.O. Box 1408, Lonehill 2062. 125 Duncan Road, Glenferness, 2191
Rev. Ian France, Rev. Linda Magengenene-Moyake
www.gracepoint.co.za

