

Fellowship Group Questions for *Encountering God*
Message by Fabian Loo

When you think about the idea of an “encounter with God,” what thoughts come to your mind?

Read Genesis 28:10-17.

Describe Jacob’s dream.

Read Gen. 28:16. What was Jacob’s first response to the dream?

What does this tell us about the purpose of encounters with God?

Jacob’s encounter with God came by way of a dream. In what way did other people in the Bible encounter God?

How can a person encounter God?

After his encounter with God what did Jacob conclude about the place where he had the dream (v. 17)?

What was the problem with this conclusion?

Share with the group one important truth, conviction or challenge that you took away from the message on Sunday.

Fellowship Group Questions for *Encountering God*

Message by Fabian Loo

When you think about the idea of an “encounter with God,” what thoughts come to your mind?

Read Genesis 28:10-17.

Describe Jacob’s dream. He sees a ladder or a stairway that reached from the earth to heaven. At the top of the ladder/stairway was God who pronounced a promise that He would give Jacob and his descendants the land he was laying on. He also said that the number of his descendants would be like the dust of the earth and be all over the earth. He then said that through his descendants the families of the earth would be blessed. God also promised that He would be with Jacob, protect him and bring him back to the land He had promised to give him.

Read Gen. 28:16. What was Jacob’s first response to the dream? He realized that God was there but until the dream he hadn’t realized it. He had encountered God.

What does this tell us about the purpose of encounters with God? Many times, God needs to reveal Himself to us to remind us that He’s “in this place.” He is right there where we are but because of our circumstances or our weakened relationship with Him we don’t realize it.

Jacob’s encounter with God came by way of a dream. In what way did other people in the Bible encounter God? Moses encountered God through the burning bush. The people of Israel encountered God when He parted the Red Sea. Samuel encountered God through a voice in the night. David encountered God in a variety of ways but by way of rebuke he encountered God through the confrontation of Nathan the prophet. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego encountered God in the fiery furnace. Daniel encountered God in the lion’s den. Paul encountered God through an experience of a bright light and voice from heaven. John encountered God through a vision.

How can a person encounter God?

After his encounter with God what did Jacob conclude about the place where he had the dream (v. 17)? He thought it was the “house of God” or place where God lived.

What was the problem with this conclusion? If Jacob thought that God was primarily in that place than he wouldn’t expect to encounter Him anywhere else. Sometimes we think that we can only encounter God in certain places – church, a special worship service or event, a prayer time, etc. We have to be aware that encounters with God aren’t limited to certain events or places.

Share with the group one important truth, conviction or challenge that you took away from the message on Sunday.