



THE LADDER SESSIONS

WEEK THREE

SUNDAY MESSAGE: CLIMB THE LADDER

"Jacob's Ladder" is now common vernacular. In addition to being the name of a horror movie and a plant species, it is apparently a workout routine. The original Jacob's Ladder, however, was a dream that God gave to our main character. On the surface, we called our study "the ladder" for this reason, but really we wanted to recognize that Jacob's default mode in the story is one that we all are encouraged to follow - to climb the ladder. Jacob wants more all the time. He is never ever satisfied, and he is always reaching for that next thing, but he finds out that God has a different ladder in mind for him - a ladder that leads not to all the temporary, material things to fulfill him, but straight to God's Presence. God wants us to discover the same thing.

LADDER SESSION: FRONTIERS

In our Ladder Session this week we took a deeper look at the drive within us that we see so clearly in Jacob. We are constantly reaching for the next thing, the next frontier. Even when we achieve something, there is always something more to chase. We often have the same experience Jacob did when we choose to climb the ladder. It leaves us in a mess! Just like Jacob, however, God is ready and waiting with His grace for us. When God shows up and showers Jacob in blessings, Jacob throws a bunch of conditions back at Him! He's not the finished article yet! Jacob is looking for how he can retain control of his future, and sometimes we all do this with God. Many of us try to do good things, so that God will surely bless us. In reality, all the things we chase, and even hope God will bless us with pale in comparison to what He has in mind for us, in His Presence.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What are the things you are driven by?
2. How do you think God feels about those things you reach for?
3. Practically, how can you trust Him when He promises you "much more"?

NOTES:

FURTHER STUDY:

1. A Collection of important essays and sermons, **The Weight of Glory** by C.S. Lewis is an amazing look into our desires and how much greater God's intentions for us are.
2. Take another look at Jesus' longest message he gave in Matthew 5-7, and pay special attention to the passages in Matthew 6 where Jesus promises us that our Heavenly Father understands our needs and wants to bless us with something even greater.
3. Journal out any frontiers you've chased, and ask God for a greater revelation of His purposes and desires for you. Meditate on Psalm 139:13-18.