

## **Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown**

**October 11-17: Read Genesis 28 & Gospel of Matthew 5-6**

### **Genesis 28**

After the mess that Jacob made with his family, he ran away from home. He headed north to go to a relative he's never met, to a country he's never been. And he felt utterly alone as he settled for a night in the cool night, with a small rock as his pillow, looking up to the distant stars in the sky. But then God came to him.

#### Further Study & Discussion

- Jacob is not a good person. So why would God appear to him to bless him? Didn't he deserve God's anger, instead? Why do you think God did this, and what do we learn about God?
- God begins with, "I am the Lord the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac." Why is this significant? How does our relationship with God affect our children and grandchildren?
- As God's promise is celebrated, Jacob makes a promise of his own to God. Applying this to our own lives, we celebrate God's blessing. What promise have we made in response?

### **Gospel of Matthew 5-6**

Jesus' excellent teaching is gathered together in our two chapters. It begins with the famous Beatitudes. And that is followed by a series of important teachings that reflect the characteristic of the followers of Jesus.

#### Further Study & Discussion

- Someone said that the Beatitudes is a summary of Jesus' own character and the very thing Jesus wishes for his followers to live out. Which of the Beatitudes do you like the most? Which is most difficult for you?
- 5:21 begins a section of anger, and it continues at v.38-48. That's an emotion that's too common these days. What does Jesus say about anger? And why is reconciliation so hard? And how can we change anger to love?
- Say the Lord's Prayer found in 6:9-13. We say it every Sunday. Point out one thing that stands out for you and discuss it with others.