SELF-RELIANCE?

One night a college student was watching the starry sky while pondering about his future. He was nearing graduation, but he had not received any job offer so far. He was already engaged to a young woman, and the relationship was progressing well. But the income of his temporary job as a music teacher was too meager to provide even for himself! Filled with fear, he turned his thoughts to her for she was also struggling to finish college.

Additionally, they agreed that after having children, she would stay at home to care for them and to teach them the ways of the Lord. This was a top priority for them, but how could they accomplish this? He was completely surrounded by darkness, inside and outside.

But in lifting his eyes to the sky, he was reminded about how God asked Abraham to trust in His promises by counting the stars! Is there still a God in heaven? he thought. Or was He the God of Abraham only? He then recalled how God had challenged Abraham’s fears: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward” (Gen. 15:1, NKJV).

Overwhelmed by God’s warm presence, tears also warmed his face as faith took hold of His promises. Abraham was already dead, he thought, but God’s promises are for all, as God is no respecter of anyone.

This week we will focus on Genesis 28:10–22, following Jacob, Abraham’s grandson, on his journey. What were the steps that led him not only to thrive in his business and to provide for his family, but also to move from a fraudulent character to a virtuous hero in God’s kingdom?
Write out Genesis 28:10–15 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Genesis 28:10–15. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

When is someone a tither: when they pay the tithe, or when they vow to tithe?

Is it trust in God that leads someone to tithe, or is it tithing that leads someone to trust in God? How can it work both ways?

Was Tithe Invented By The Church?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/stw06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What are the advantages, if any, of informing those who are around us about our vows (e.g., about being baptized, marrying someone, keeping the Sabbath, or tithing)? Or should we keep them a secret?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Isaiah 41:10
Matthew 11:28, 29
Luke 19:8, 9
Psalm 132:1–5, 11–14
2 Corinthians 9:7
Philippians 2:13
Ezekiel 36:26–31
Isaiah 58:13, 14

What other verses/promises come to mind with Genesis 28:10–15?

Why is it impossible to follow Jesus without ever vowing anything to Him?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Where do you see Jesus in Genesis 28:10–15?
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study, how did it speak to you personally?

How can you share it in your school, family, workplace, and/or church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw06-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Why was Jacob’s vow not a way to earn merit, or a “salvation by works” initiative?

Is the mandate to date or marry only a God-fearing person who keeps His commandments still applicable to those entering into a covenant with God in the New Testament era? Explain.

How do wedding vows, made before any physical intimacy, in the presence of God, the church, and family members, contribute to the marriage’s health? Or don’t they?

If Jacob’s vow would not help him to earn merit, or even produce a change of heart, why did he make it?

In what ways may someone become selfish while giving?
In which ways will an increased frequency of giving following God’s giving help the worshipper avoid the trap of “self-centered giving”?

Jacob: The Promising Giver