**We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder (Not!)**

Genesis 28 records Jacob’s dream in which he saw angels going up and down a ladder that reached to heaven. Jesus told His earliest disciples He was that ladder. The ladder imagery is a fitting climax and summary of the amazing revelations about Christ given in John 1.

**Jesus is the ladder between God and Man.**

**1. Jesus Is Always God**

A. He is the eternal *Word* (1-2)

B. He is the eternal *Light* (5-8)

C. He is the eternal *First* (15, 30)

D. He is the eternal *Son* (14, 18)

**2. Jesus Became Man**

He became flesh in order to –

A. Make known the *invisible God* (18)

Because He is – The Word

 The Light (9)

 The Son

B. Be crowned as the *Messiah King* (41, 49)

Because He is the First

C. Be slain as the *Lamb of God* (29, 36)

Which leads me to –

**3. Why We Don’t Climb Jacob’s Ladder** (14, 16, 17)

A. Jesus did not bring a new *law*

B. Jesus brought abundant *grace*

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. Did the Lord speak to you today about Himself and His ways? Did He show you a duty you need to perform or a promise you need to claim? What was either encouraging or challenging in the sermon?

2. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the ladder between you and God—not just for salvation, but for all your needs and concerns?

3. Jacob called the place where he had his dream, Bethel, meaning “house of God” (Genesis 28:19). For him it was a special place where God had chosen to reveal Himself. Much later God again reaffirmed His covenant with Jacob at Bethel (Genesis 35:1-14).

 Are there places where you have met God in a special way?

 Can any place on earth potentially become a Bethel to you? Why? (See John 4:19-24.)

3. When Nathanael called Jesus the Son of God, he was using a recognized title for the Messiah. (Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning “Anointed One.” Christ is a Greek word meaning “Anointed One.”) Nathanael certainly did not, at this early stage, think of Jesus as the divine Son of God. In Psalm 89, King David is called God’s anointed and His firstborn (vv. 20, 27). How did Jesus indicate that He is the Son of God in a far greater sense than David was?

 John 5:16-29