



**September 12 and 15**

**Steve Cuss**

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

**Psalm 46:1-2**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear....

**SECONDARY SCRIPTURE:**

**Genesis 28:15-18**

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." Early the next morning, Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How was your week. Where did you see God at work this week?
2. We're launching a new series called Set Apart. We talked about God's omni presence vs God's manifest presence - a time where people experience God in a particular way. Have you ever encountered God in a specific way?
3. We looked at all the rituals and commands in the Old Testament. They kept the Israelites busy with encountering God. We tend to reject all 'commands' and 'rituals' as legalism or bad. What are some commands and rituals you have found helpful in encountering God?
4. We discussed how a church service has elements designed to help us encounter God. What have you found helpful in engaging God during a church service?
5. What is something you might choose to 'set apart' in your life this week? A vow or a habit?