

over the account (25 : 29-34) of Jacob's over-shrewd purchase of the birthright, and that of the swindling meanness practised by Jacob (and alas ! by his mother also) on poor blind old Isaac, ch. 27, and of the pretence under which Jacob now leaves home, 27 : 41-46. How little like the son of Abraham's faith and Isaac's daily walking with God. A mere man of the world is Jacob, and a poor specimen at that—God ignored, indeed, defied.

2. *God visiting the man.* Jacob leaves home, thinking only to escape his brother's anger, and by and by to return to inherit his father's possessions. God was nowhere in his thoughts. How hollow in his ears must have sounded his father's blessing, 28 : 1-4. The two or three days' journey to Bethel doubtless brought new thoughts. At any rate, it made Jacob feel how big, and wide, and lonely the world was, and how even a strong, sturdy man like himself might need a guide. A mere speck on the landscape was the wayward wanderer. But God watched and followed him, and now appears to him, the ladder to catch his eye, the angels to make heaven real, the LORD Himself (like that same Lord Jesus on the Damascus road, Acts 9) to speak the word that waked a dead soul into life and living trust.

3. *The man devoting himself to God.* The

vision vanished with Jacob's awakening, v. 16, but the Presence of God remained. Mark (1) Jacob's ready and reverent, yet trembling recognition (compare Acts 9 : 6); (2) His consecration of the spot to God's worship, v. 13; (3) His solemn vow of service, vs. 20-22.

### Prove from Scripture

That the Lord is near at all times.

### Topics for Brief Papers

(To be assigned the Sabbath previous.)

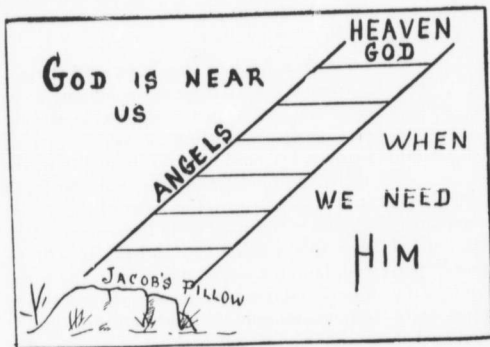
1. How Jacob got the birthright and the blessing.
2. John 1 : 51.
3. How much should we give?

### The Catechism Question.

Ques. 93. *The Sacraments of the New Testament.* The two requirements of a sacrament (See Ques. 92) are (1) direct appointment by Christ Himself, and (2) the use of sensible signs for spiritual purposes. Baptism and the Lord's Supper fulfil these. The Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Church reckon seven sacraments,—namely, Baptism, Confirmation, the Lord's Supper, Penance, Extreme Unction (the anointing of the dying with oil), Ordination, Matrimony. "Two of these," says Professor Salmond, "Ordination and Matrimony, are of divine institution, but they have not the sensible signs and symbolical meaning which mark a true sacrament. The other three—Confirmation, Penance and Extreme Unction—lack appointment by Christ. The last two have been the source of great abuses in the Church."

### FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

*Connection*—Show Story Book. Recall Golden Text. Have you been a peacemaker this week? Did Mary "give up" her dolly when little sister cried for it? Did John stand by and see boys quarreling and not try to make peace?



*Introduction*—"Oh, mother dear, I had a most beautiful dream," said Carol. "I dreamed I saw Santa Claus coming in at the window with a big pack of toys on his back, etc." Did you ever dream? Oh, yes! What a lot of little dreamers! We are going to hear about a man who dreamed a beautiful dream, and God spoke to him in the dream.

*Jacob's dream*—Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. These brothers were not