

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

- Facilitator: In advance of the session:
- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide a collection of art supplies for each week including: crayons, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrap-booking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Genesis 25:19-34. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing, Visual, or Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

Write at least one of these options:

- “I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men and women will see visions, and your old men and women will dream dreams...” [Acts 2:17] It is an interesting concept to think about God communicating with humanity through visions and dreams. I really like that God communicates with us in creative ways, ways that get our attention and call us into action. Jacob’s dream indeed got his attention. Take time to read through Jacob’s dream in the text, and then write your own interpretation of his dream. What might God be trying to communicate to Jacob? What do the images in the dream mean? What could the ladder or stairs represent? Dissect the dream and offer several interpretations.
- Write about a transformational time or event in your life. Really explore all the emotions you felt and the reactions you had. Recall the people who helped, counseled, consoled, or supported you through. On separate sheet of paper, write a simple, heartfelt message of thanks to those individuals. Express to them how important they were/are to you. Whether you decide to mail the note or not, thank God for

those special people in your life that walk with you through the transformational times.

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create one of these visual items:

- Choose a character from our scripture text today to analyze. Using an element of character analysis, determine whether your character is “flat” or “round.” Flat refers to a character that experiences little change from beginning to end of a story, while round refers to a character that has experienced some type of growth. Create a piece of art surrounding the theme of either “flat” or “round” and include words, images, colors, etc. that represent that character and his/her growth or lack thereof.
- Think of a dream you’ve had recently or one that reoccurs. Take a few moments to write down that dream and images that come to mind. Let’s try to avoid those naked in public dreams or the ones where you’re on stage but have forgotten the dance routine (oh, is that just me?) Choose a dream that seems symbolic or out-of-the-ordinary. Ponder how God might be speaking to you through your dream. Create a work of art that describes and illustrates one of your dreams and/or its interpretation. Title your masterpiece when you are finished.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and explain their meaning, or tell the stories behind them.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer asking God to continue to communicate with us through dreams and other creative means. Let God know that you are open to God’s communication in any form.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group— post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group’s special gathering place).

by Carra Hughes Greer