

Sermon Discussion Guide
First Things First – Week 2
A Certain Place
September 26, 2021



Big Idea

One of the ways we love our neighbors is by loving our neighborhood praying, “Surely the Lord is in this place. Your will be done *here* as in heaven.”



Icebreaker

Where is your favorite place? Why do you like it so much?



Discussion Questions

1. Read **Genesis 28:10-16**. Jacob was in the middle of a journey when God spoke to him. When was a time during a transitional season that God spoke to you?
2. Re-read **Genesis 28:16**. Jacob didn't initially realize God was in the place he was in. How does our attitude change when we recognize God is in a place? How can we see the place we're in as God sees it?
3. Read **John 1:45-46**. What places do you hear people disparage a lot? How does it affect the way someone views a person from there? What is the danger of speaking poorly of or dismissing a place?
4. Read **John 1:47-51**. How does verse 51 relate to Jacob's dream? Why would Jesus reference it? Where have you seen heaven meet earth?
5. Sometimes we are called to stay put rather than go. Why can that be a difficult thing to hear?



Concluding Questions

What do you love about Western New York and Buffalo? What are you being called to do in your place now? What are some ways you can practically love your neighborhood? Maybe think of a neighbor you haven't spoken to or a local ministry you can serve with.



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

Possible prayer topics for this week:

- “In WNY as it is in heaven”
- Practical ways to love our neighborhood
- Seeing our place as God sees it
- Refugees currently placed in Buffalo