

HEROES OF FAITH SERIES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Heroes of Faith: Jacob -

1. This week we studied the life of Jacob. What from his story stands out to you when you think of Jacob? What parts of his life connect with you? In what way?

2. We looked at four sections of Jacob's life. The first section can be titled "Jacob's scheme." This section of his story describes how he and his mother came up with an elaborate plan to trick his father Isaac into giving him, rather than his brother Esau, his father's blessing. We can tell from reading the story that this blessing was essential. One commentary said, "this narrative assumes and affirms that spoken words shape human life." Do you agree with the idea that spoken words shape human life? Have there been words spoken to you that have shaped your life? If so, tell that story.

Last week, as we studied the life of Abraham, we saw that we have a role in blessing others. We see that again through the life of Jacob. What does it mean to you to bless someone? How often do you seek to bless others? Do you think you should be more intentional about blessing others? Share with your group some one you are intentionally seeking to bless this week.

3. Read Genesis 28:10-22. What from this story stands out to you?

Jacob's dream of the stairway to heaven is an amazing story in the Bible. This dream contained the visual of the staircase and the auditory account of God's promise of blessing Jacob. It then also records Jacob's response to God. Do you believe that the promises God gave to Jacob extend to you? With which of them do you most connect?

Jacob responds with worship. He makes an altar and vows to make the Lord his God. He even vows to give God a tenth of all that God has given to him. When you are reminded of all the promises God has made to you, do you respond with worship, or have you lost that sense of awe that should accompany our interactions with God?

4. We also focused on Jacob's struggle. The night before Jacob was to meet with his brother Esau for the first time since he stole the blessing, Jacob had a strange encounter with God. Jacob's encounter with God is described as wrestling, and in this struggle, God blesses Jacob and changes his name to Israel. The idea of wrestling with God has now become a metaphor describing how we have to pray through difficult things in our lives before we can come to accept them. This led to our third sermon point, which reminds us **We wrestle with God as we try to understand life, make peace with our past, and ultimately surrender to him.** Do you feel that you have ever wrestled with God? Describe to your group a time that you had to wrestle with God. What was the result?

Are you currently wrestling with God about an issue in your life? If so, please courageously share that as well.

5. The fourth section of Jacob's life that we examined was Jacob's legacy. This led to our last sermon point: **we need to remember we will also leave a legacy; our lives will leave an impact.** What do you think was Jacob's legacy for all the generations that have come after him?

What is the impact that you hope to have on future generations?