

blessing of breaking

Small Group Discussion

Womb Wars V: The Return of the Blessing

Story of Jacob Week 9: Genesis 33

Getting Started

- Can you think of a time where you felt helpless in the face of a new task or challenge where God came through in a big way and you emerged on the other side thankful for his provision? Share that story—and how that experience might help you trust God in the face of the “impossible” in the future.

Static Questions

- **What was the passage about?**
 - Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
 - Pay attention to the main *points* of the passage.
- **What did you learn?**
 - What did the passage reveal about God? About people?
 - Was there a promise or command or a warning?
 - What is the big idea of the passage?
 - What lessons do you see?
- **How will you apply it?**
 - How does this passage relate to your life right now?
 - What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this message?
 - How should you respond based on what you learned?

From the Teaching this Morning

- Take a look at Jacob’s first divine encounter in Genesis 28:10-22 (have someone read the passage). How are these two encounters different from one another? What similarities are there?
- Jacob was fearful of the upcoming encounter with Esau—to the point of expecting his own death! After wrestling with God he emerged with confidence. How has God reassured you in the midst of fear? What can you learn about fear from Jacob’s story?
- How can we recognize when we’ve put too much confidence in our own plans and cleverness and not enough trust in the Lord?

Application Questions

- In the Bible we see people given a new name for one of two reasons. Sometimes the name change is to acknowledge a change in the individual. Most often the name change is given to prepare (or announce) a new task or role they have been assigned. Both are true in Jacob’s name change to Israel.
 - What other figures in Scripture are given a new name? Why?
 - For Jacob in particular, his new name meant he was to leave behind a part of his past (being a deceiver). What things do you leave behind as you embrace your new identity in Christ?

