

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

# The Book of Genesis

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth - Genesis 1:1

**WEEK 10**

## *“Emotional Creatures”*

**Study:** Genesis 32:1-21

**Reading:** Psalm 42:1-11, 43:1-5

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48

**T**hough there are emotional swings in all sports, one of the sports where I have noticed the greatest emotional disparities was in high school girls volleyball. I think some of this has to do with the natural emotional state of girls and the other part has to do with how the game is set up to be a very mental game. I have been amazed to see how a team can dominate one game, and then the very next game get crushed by the same opponent. Even in the same game, a team can be on the verge of winning and then just flop as the other team gains momentum.

Today, we are going to read how we are all creatures of emotion. We will read about how we can be living in confidence at one moment and then something can happen that will change all that and we can easily fall into despair. We will be encouraged to realize that people in the Bible were emotional this way as well, but we will also be challenged to learn to be less fearful and to trust God more.

### What Does the Bible Say?

After Laban had left, Jacob continued on his way back to his homeland, but this journey was a fearful one. He had left there 20 years earlier with his brother Esau desiring to kill him. He was unsure about what was going to happen next, yet God, in His grace, was helping Jacob along. God sent a messenger to meet Jacob. We are not told what the messenger said but are told that Jacob named the place Mahanaim which meant “this is God’s camp.” This naming indicates that God reassured him that He would be with Jacob’s family and protect them in the upcoming meeting with Esau (vs 1-2).

Whether the next acts of Jacob were instructed by the Lord or not, we are not sure, but we are told that Jacob sent messengers to Esau declaring he was coming back home. He offered many of his flock to his brother as a type of peace offering in an attempt to try to ease some of the anger his

brother might be sheltering. This didn't seem to work as Jacob had planned because his messengers returned, stating that Esau was coming out to meet Jacob, but was coming to him with 400 men. I can just imagine the chill that went through Jacob when he heard this and the hope and confidence he had gained quickly turned into fear. Jacob quickly divided his family and animals into two different camps, thinking that if Esau attacked, he would only lose half of his family and possessions while the other half could escape (vs 3-8).

Jacob then called out to God, asking him for help. He declared how it was God who had instructed him to return and how God had been merciful and gracious to him in the years leading up to his return by providing him with many things. He pleaded with God to deliver him from Esau and told God how scared he was of the upcoming confrontation. He reminded God how He had promised to do good to him and bless his offspring. Basically, he was pouring his heart out to God, expressing all of his fears and deepfelt emotions (vs 9-12).

The next day he gathered together many of his animals and divided them into different waves that he would send to Esau as a gift. He told his servants to put gaps between the different flocks of animals, hoping that the constant wave after wave of gifts would ease the anger of Esau. Jacob started sending the droves of animals to Esau, but he himself stayed behind at the camp, waiting to hear reports about the response of Esau (vs 13-21).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

There are times where it is easy to dehumanize Bible characters and view the Bible as a storybook rather than view the people of the Bible as real people who faced real struggles. Yet, the story you read about today helps you realize the great emotions that these people faced. They faced the same emotions that you and I face. Even though the messenger of God was sent to Jacob to give him boldness, that boldness did not last. As soon as the news that Esau was traveling to meet him with 400 men reached Jacob's ears, that circumstance quickly caused Jacob's confidence to disappear. I can see this happen in my life. One day, I am bold and so confident in God and His leading in my life, but then one bit of news will reach my ears regarding a circumstance that has changed and I begin to fear and panic. How fickle we are as people, yet even in this fickleness, God loves us and is gracious to us. Choose today to be more bold and trust in God, not using the fear of Jacob as an excuse, but using the

deliverance of Jacob as a reason for boldness and confidence.

Who met Jacob (vs 1)?

What did Jacob declare about this meeting (vs 2)?

How do you think this gave Jacob confidence?

What message did Jacob send to Esau (vs 3-5)?

What did Esau decide to do when he heard Jacob was coming (vs 6)?

How did Jacob respond to this news (vs 7)?

How have you seen yourself acting like Jacob at times?

What was Jacob's plan (vs 7-8)?

What did Jacob remind God of (vs 9)?

What did Jacob recognize about this status (vs 10)?

What did Jacob ask God (vs 11)? What reasoning did he use (vs 12)?

What did Jacob want to give to Esau (vs 13-15)?

What can you learn about the wealth of Jacob from this?

What was Jacob's plan in giving gifts to Esau (vs 16-19)?

Do you think this was a wise plan? Explain.

Why did Jacob do this (vs 20)?

How do you think you would have felt if you were in Jacob's situation?

What did Jacob decide to do for the night (vs 21)?

Why do you think Jacob didn't want to be in the lead, but sent his servants and animals first?

## ***“Wrestling with God”***

**Study:** Genesis 32:22-32

**Reading:** Job 23:1-17

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48

**W**hen we first moved to Michigan and the business I was operating went through great struggles, I found myself in constant wrestling matches with God. I couldn't understand how He could call us to a new ministry and then allow my business, which I was relying on to provide for our needs, to start failing. I feared the future and constantly wondered how I would be able to provide for my family. I wanted to trust God and knew I should trust God, but the emotions of the circumstance made it very difficult to trust Him. This wrestling match lasted more than a night but went on for several months, with some periods being much more intense than others. Through it all, God taught me that He is and will always be with me and that I can trust Him even when I don't know what will happen next.

Today, we are going to see how Jacob wrestled with God and how God used that time to bless Jacob and give him confidence.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Jacob knew that he must move forward to face his brother, though he was extremely afraid. He sent his wives and children across the river of Jabbok (a ford was a place where rivers could be crossed), but he stayed by himself on the other side of the river. What happened next leaves us with more questions than answers, but it is one of those things that we will have to wait until we get to heaven to fully understand. For now, we need to glean the truths that are stated, though we can't fully understand. While Jacob was alone, a man appeared and started wrestling with Jacob. They wrestled for a period of time all the way until the sun was about to come up. The man was not winning against Jacob so he touched the hip of Jacob and caused his hip to go out of joint. The man asked for Jacob to let him go, but Jacob said he would not let him go until the man blessed him. The man asked Jacob what his name was and Jacob told him. He then responded by telling Jacob that his name would be changed from Jacob to Israel which meant “to strive with God.” Jacob wanted to know what the

name of his opponent was, but the man would not tell him since it appeared that Jacob already knew. Jacob then named the place Peniel, which meant “the face of God.” Through this circumstance, Jacob had come to the realization that the man he was wrestling with was God (vs 22-30).

As morning came, Jacob was still limping as a result of his wrestling match. This started a tradition for the Israelites as they chose not to eat the sinew (some type of muscle or tendon) of the thigh that is on the hip socket. This was to be something that would be a constant reminder to the Israelites that God had given them the name of Israel (vs 31-32).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Have you ever wrestled with God about something? No, I am not talking about a physical wrestling match like Jacob had, but a spiritual wrestling match because of choices, decisions or circumstances in your life. I believe that this is one of the main reasons this instance is recorded for you to read. If you put yourself in the place of Jacob, you can understand the deep emotional struggle he was going through. He was about to face his twin brother who he had deceived multiple times, and he did not know if he or his family would live after this. A great fear of the future and the unknown had come over him and he must have been battling with trusting in God because it was God who led him to take this step. The battle that Jacob had was physical, but I think deeper than that, it was a spiritual and emotional battle. He wanted to know that God was on his side and he was struggling to trust God. There will be times in your life where you will not be able to fully understand what God is doing in your life as fear of the unknown may creep in because of difficult circumstances. It is during these times that you have to come to the choice if you are going to trust God or not trust God. It is these times that God uses to humble you as He challenges you to trust in Him and not in yourself. Just as Jacob was more reliant upon God after this struggle, you will be better off as well as you will be less reliant upon yourself and more reliant upon God.

## **Thought for the day**

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What did Jacob do with his family and possessions (vs 22-23)?

What happened to Jacob when he was alone (vs 24)?

What was this man not able to do (vs 25)?

What did the man do to Jacob (vs 25)?

Why would Jacob not let the man go (vs 26)?

What did the man ask Jacob (vs 27)?

Why do you think that this man gave Jacob a new name (vs 28)?

What did Jacob want to know (vs 29)?

What did Jacob name the place (vs 30)? Why?

What does this reveal about the man?

*\*\*\*This is hard to understand because God could have easily won in a wrestling match with Jacob. This reminds me of times where I would wrestle with my little children and they thought they had a chance to be victorious over me, but the times of wrestling drew us closer together as a family.*

Why did Jacob now have a limp (vs 32)?

What would the people of Israel not do (vs 32)?

Why not (vs 32)?

Describe a time in your life where you wrestled with God?

How did God show Himself real to you at this time?

Why do you think God puts you into spots where you have to wrestle with Him at times?

# “Unfounded Fear”

**Study:** Genesis 33:1-20

**Reading:** Luke 15:11-32, I Peter 5:1-11

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48

## What Does the Bible Say?

As wave after wave of Jacob’s possessions reached Esau, Jacob was still unsure of what Esau was thinking because Esau left all of it alone. When the waves of his family reached Esau, Esau still did nothing harmful. Finally Jacob had to confront Esau and he did so in great humility, bowing down before his brother seven times until he finally reached him. Esau wanted nothing to do with Jacob’s humility because he was thrilled to see his brother. He ran out to meet him, hugged him, kissed him and wept for joy because his brother had come home (vs 1-4).

Esau then started to ask Jacob about his wives and children and Jacob took the time to introduce all of them to Esau. With four wives and eleven children, in addition to all their personal servants, the group that Jacob introduced to his brother must have been very large. Esau then asked why Jacob sent the waves of flocks and servants in front of him, and Jacob explained that it was because he wanted to find favor in the sight of Esau.

Esau told Jacob that he had plenty enough and did not want to take any possessions from Jacob. Jacob wanted Esau to take something as a gift since he was so thrilled to see his brother and he was even more thrilled that his brother was no longer angry with him. Esau finally agreed to accept a small gift, which must have been a great relief and thrill to Jacob (vs 5-11).

The plan of Esau was for Jacob and him to lead the way and for Jacob’s family to follow, but Jacob knew that his whole household had to move at a very slow pace because of all the people and animals that were giving birth. Jacob hoped to travel down to the area of Seir where Esau now lived (Southeast of Canaan), but he knew it would take a long time to get there with his whole household. Though the escort of Esau would have provided safety, Jacob told Esau that God would be with them to keep them safe. Esau offered to leave some of his men to help Jacob and his family, but Jacob didn’t feel he needed the extra protection and help. They then parted ways and Jacob reached the area of Succoth and made

some dwelling places for himself and his livestock. Succoth was east of the Jordan river and must have had food to provide for his livestock. We are not told how long Jacob and his family stayed there, but long enough to build shelters for themselves and their livestock (vs 12-17).

From there, Jacob took his family to the area near the city of Shechem. He bought a piece of land in that region and chose to live there for a while. Shechem was located 65 miles north of Jerusalem and was between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim. Many biblical events took place in the area of Shechem in the Old and New Testament. (It was the city of Shechem in which Jesus talked with the woman at the well.) Being back in the land that God promised to his father and grandfather was special to Jacob and he built an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel which meant “the God of Israel” (vs 18-20).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever dreaded something that was about to happen or have become fearful of the unknown? Many times the dread and fear is much worse than the actual situation. It is the dread and fear that can often cause you not to do what God wants because you are afraid of the process or results. Yet, today’s reading should be a good reminder to you about casting your cares over to God. If Jacob had let his fear control him, he would have never had the opportunity to make things right with Esau and would have lived his life in fear and uncertainty. Because He chose to obey and trust God, he realized that much of his fear was unfounded. You will often find the same in your life as well. Fear and worry are often much greater than the actual circumstance, and many times, the circumstance never takes place. It is easy to get consumed with the “what if’s” in life rather than realizing who God is and trusting Him to do as He says. Take time today to evaluate your life and see how much of it is controlled by fear and worry. Choose to turn those things over to the God of Israel and surrender those things to Him. He will take them over and do a much better job of handling them than you will.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Thank God for always being in control of your life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you trust Him with everything.*
- \* *Praise God because He is trustworthy.*

What did Jacob see (vs 1)?

How did he arrange his family (vs 2)?

Why did he arrange them this way?

How did Jacob approach Esau (vs 3)?

How did Esau greet Jacob (vs 4)?

What did Esau want to know (vs 5-7)?

What question did Esau ask Jacob in verse 8?

What did Jacob say his purpose was (vs 8)?

What does verse 9 reveal about Esau?

What did Jacob insist (vs 10)? Why?

What did Esau want to do (vs 12)?

What was Jacob worried about (vs 13)?

Where was Esau living (vs 14)?

Where did Jacob end up stopping (vs 17)?

Why did he name it “Succoth” (vs 17)?

Where did Jacob end up living in the land of Canaan (vs 18)?

\*\*\**We are not told if he ever ended up traveling to Seir.*

What did Jacob buy (vs 19)?

Why do you think Jacob erected an altar there (vs 20)?

What did he call it? Why?

## “Great Defilement”

**Study:** Genesis 34:1-31

**Reading:** --

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48



Looking down on the city of Shechem from Mount Gerazim

### What Does the Bible Say?

While Jacob and his family stayed near Shechem, Dinah, the daughter of Leah, decided to go to the city to see how other women in the land lived. While there, the son of Hamor (Hamor was the leader of the city) was thrilled with her beauty which led to his choice to rape her. He was enthralled with her, and, though he had raped her, he also talked kindly to her and desired to take her for his wife. He asked his father to make arrangements so that he could marry her (vs 1-4).

When Dinah arrived home, word reached Jacob about what had happened, but he waited to say or do anything until his sons came home from working with the livestock in the fields. In the meantime, Hamor paid a visit to Jacob to try to arrange a marriage, yet this talk did not settle well with the children of Jacob because they were furious when they heard about the rape of their sister. Hamor tried to justify the actions of his son, stating that his son loved Dinah. He also wanted Jacob to consider being

“trading partners” with him when it came to the women in the land. Those of the household of Jacob and the city of Shechem could share their women as wives. Shechem, who was the son of Hamor and the one who had committed the rape, spoke up and told Jacob that he would give him whatever price he wanted for his daughter Dinah (vs 5-12).

Before Jacob made his decision, his sons spoke up with a deceptive idea. They told Hamor that they could not exchange women because the people of Shechem were not circumcised. If they chose to be circumcised, they would be able to make a deal and would be able to exchange women between the two families. If Hamor and his sons chose not to do this, their would be no deal (vs 13-17).

The request from the sons of Jacob didn’t seem too unreasonable, so they made an agreement with Jacob’s household. Shechem didn’t delay and immediately had himself circumcised. Hamor also spoke to the men of the city about the deal. They were not just looking for wives, but if they started marrying the family of Jacob, soon all the possessions of Jacob would belong to the men of the city. This seemed like a great way to become wealthy and almost all the men of the city agreed to be circumcised (vs 13-24).

On the third day after this agreement was made, the men who had been circumcised were still recovering from the process. These men would have been sore and unable to fight. Simeon and Levi knew this and they wanted to enact revenge on Shechem. They went through the city, killing all the men because the men were unable to defend themselves. They took Dinah from Shechem’s house and plundered the rest of the city of their wealth, livestock, women and children (vs 25-29).

Jacob was not thrilled with their actions because he knew that this action could cause conflict with the other nations of the land. He was afraid that the Canaanites and Perizzites would hear of their actions and attack them. Jacob and his family were not strong enough to defend themselves from attacks. Levi and Simeon did not seem to care because they had been bent on avenging the rape of their sister (vs 30-31).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Just as Jacob was a deceiver, so were many of his children. Though deception may seem profitable for immediate results, normally the outcome is not what the deceiver was planning on. The choice of Jacob’s sons put Jacob and the whole family in danger and they would be unwelcome guests anywhere they would choose to travel.

What happened to Dinah (vs 1-2)?

What did Shechem attempt to do (vs 3-4)? Why?

What did Jacob do when he heard about this (vs 5)?

What did Hamor want to do (vs 6)?

How did Dinah’s brothers respond (vs 7)?

What deal did Hamor want to make (vs 8-10)?

What was Hamor willing to pay (vs 11-12)?

What did the children of Jacob say Shechem needed to do (vs 13-17)?

Were they being honest? Explain.

What did Shechem do as a result of this conversation (vs 18-19)?

What did Hamor convince the men of the city to do (vs 20-24)?

What did Simeon and Levi do (vs 25)?

Why do you think they did this?

What did the rest of Jacob’s sons do (vs 27-29)?

How did Jacob respond when he heard what his sons had done (vs 30)?

Why was Jacob so concerned (vs 30)?

Why did the sons of Jacob not seem to care about what their father said?

What does this reveal about the attitude of Jacob’s sons?

Why is this type of attitude so dangerous?

What can you learn from this passage?

# “Burying Idols”

**Study:** Genesis 35:1-8

**Reading:** II Corinthians 10:1-12, I Corinthians 10:1-22

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48

When I was leading the church I pastored through an evangelism program, one of the things that we had to decide was when we should go out into our community to practice the evangelism methods we were learning. At that time, we decided that Sunday afternoon/evening would be the best time for us. This was somewhat of a difficult choice for me for a few reasons. As a pastor, Sundays are very tiring and having the afternoon to rest was something I enjoyed. Yet, it wasn't the lack of rest that I struggled with the most. We were doing this for a period of time in the fall, and I loved to watch football. I realized that going out meant that there would be a lot less time to watch football. I battled with that choice and finally came to the point where I surrendered my love for football for a time and chose to love God more by sacrificing what I wanted for His cause.

Today, we are going to see how Jacob put away his idols and chose to make God more important than anything else in his life.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Now that Jacob was back in the land that was promised to Abraham and Isaac, God wanted to further explain His plans and desires for Jacob's family. God told Jacob to go to the place where he had the vision of the ladder and where God had made a promise to him. Jacob prepared to go to Bethel with his family to worship God by ordering his family to put away their idols so they could worship God alone. Jacob collected the gods and symbols of worship that those in his family and those who served him had been using and buried them underneath a tree that was near Shechem. It appears that there was some significance in placing these items under the tree, but we are not told what that was. The great significance of this event is found in the fact that Jacob was now making the God of his fathers the God of his family (vs 1-4).

Understanding that culture helps us realize that the choice that Jacob made to travel back home with his family was not an easy one. The choice

that Jacob also made not to take on the protection from Esau's men also reveals something to us. Most Americans think with middle class American minds, but in those days, traveling with a large flock and family through foreign lands was dangerous. Any nation that felt threatened by Jacob or any group of people who wanted Jacob's wealth could have attacked Jacob's family. Yet, they were kept safe because God sent a fear of Jacob's family into the minds of those who might want to attack him. They realized that Jacob was under protection of a much stronger power and understood they would be foolish to hurt Jacob or his family (vs 5).

Jacob did as God had instructed and took his family to Bethel. There he erected an altar to worship God. He called the place "El-Bethel" because it was there that God had met with him and made the promise to him to keep him safe and bring him back to the land (vs 6-7).

While they were there at Bethel, Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died. Rebekah was Jacob's mother and we are not told why her nurse was with Jacob and his family. Though we are told in the next chapter that Jacob eventually ended up in Hebron with Isaac, this seems to give evidence to the thought that Isaac met up with Jacob sometime after he moved into the land of promise. It is still unclear why Deborah would have been living with them, though she could have been sent with Jacob when Rebekah sent her son away (vs 8).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to put away your idols to follow God? When Jacob ordered his family to give up their idols, it was a significant event in his life. He was now prepared to worship God alone and serve Him with his life. You can see many other places in Scripture where God makes it clear that He wants to be worshiped alone. I realize that most people reading this do not have a statue of some god in their house that they bow down and worship, but it is very easy to worship things other than God. These things could be numerous. They could be things like money, possessions, fame or they could be other things like a house, sports, activity, friends, family. There are many good things that can become idols. Jesus told us that "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (ESV - Luke 14:26). The idea of hating is really the idea of preferring God over anything else that we have or do. Take time today to ask God to reveal to you if you have any idols in your life that you need to "bury" so you will be able to worship God only.

Where did God tell Jacob to go (vs 1)?

List some of the times that Bethel has already been mentioned in the book of Genesis?

What did God want Jacob to make (vs 1)?

Why do you think God wanted him to make this?

What did Jacob tell his family to do (vs 2)?

Why do you think they had foreign gods with them?

*\*\*\*As we read before, many of these idols were family heirlooms and were used to help reveal ownership at times. They represented heritage and many of the things of the past in Jacob's family. By giving this order, Jacob was making a conscious break from the past and from any other god that would stand in the way of their following the God of Abraham and Isaac.*

How did Jacob describe God (vs 3)?

How have you found this to be true of God?

Why do you think they also gave Jacob their earrings (vs 4)?

Why do you think Jacob buried these things under an oak tree (vs 4)?

What did God do for them as they traveled (vs 5)?

What did Jacob call the place (vs 7)? Why?

Why were names of places so significant?

Who died and was buried under a tree in Bethel (vs 8)?

Why do you think she was there?

What does this passage reveal about Jacob?

## *“Keeping His Word”*

**Study:** Genesis 35:9-29

**Reading:** Proverbs 3:1-12, Philippians 4:1-9

**Memory:** Matthew 5:48

### What Does the Bible Say?

God once appeared to Jacob at Bethel and blessed him. He told him that his name would no longer be called Jacob, but he would now be called Israel. In Genesis 32:28, God had told Jacob the same thing, but he was reiterating the importance of making a change in his name. God then told Jacob (Israel) that his family would become great and that they would receive the land that was promised to Abraham and Isaac. Once God had finished speaking to Jacob, Jacob chose to erect a pillar of stones to commemorate this meeting. He then poured out a drink offering and oil on these stones. This was a common way in that culture to confirm a covenant that was made, much like we would write our signature or have a small ceremony when signing a contract (vs 9-15).

After leaving Bethel, Jacob took his family south, and as they came near Ephrath (an ancient name for Bethlehem), Rachel went into labor. This was a very difficult labor and she finally gave birth to a son. Yet, this labor caused complications with her health and she reached the point where she knew she was going to die. She called her son Ben-oni which could have either meant “son of my sorrow” or “son of my joy,” but Jacob chose to name him Benjamin which meant “son of my right hand.” Rachel passed away and was buried near the city of Bethlehem. Jacob put a pillar over the tomb of Rachel that was still there when the book of Genesis was written. (The writing of the book of Genesis is often attributed to Moses, but he could have had other written sources that he used when writing the book. Whatever the case, it appears that the grave of Rachel was still marked in the days when the book of Genesis was written.) Jacob (now also called Israel) continued to travel south and chose to pitch his tent somewhere outside of Bethlehem (vs 16-21).

Everything was not well in the household of Jacob. We have already read about the way Simeon and Levi had murdered the people of Shechem, and now we read about Rueben choosing to have sexual relations with Bilhah. Bilhah was the woman who was Rachel's maidservant, the one who Jacob married at the request of Rachel. She was

also the mother of his half brothers Dan and Naphtali (vs 22).

In all, Jacob now had twelve sons and his family was complete. Though Abraham was no longer alive to see the initial promises of God starting to be fulfilled, God was keeping His Word and the nation of Israel had been born.

Jacob traveled all the way down to Hebron and stayed in the area where his father was living. Both Abraham and Isaac spent much of their lives in this area and now Jacob was going to live there for a while as well. Some time after Jacob returned (probably around 20 years) Isaac died. It is interesting to note that Isaac thought he was going to die and that is why he handed out the blessing. This was over 40 years before he actually died. Once Isaac died, Esau came back to Hebron to help Jacob bury their father and they buried him in the cave which Abraham, Sarah and Rebekah were buried in (vs 23-28).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Why do you think God often repeated the promises that he made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? One of the things that is easy to overlook is that these promises often came years apart. We read them in a matter of days, but many of them were repeated many years after they were originally given. God still does the same thing for us today. The Bible is full of promises that are repeated over and over, just in different ways and through different time periods. Just as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob needed to hear God speak to them more than once, we need to have God speak to us on a regular basis. He reminds us over and over about who He is and His love towards us to help us remember. He wants us to find our confidence in Him. The more we hear something, the more we tend to believe it.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for keeping His promises.*
- \* *Ask God to help you to trust Him through the ups and downs of life.*
- \* *Praise God because you can always count on Him.*

## **Thought for the day**

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What did God say Jacob's name would be (vs 10)?

Why do you think that God changed his name?

What command was given to Jacob (vs 11)?

Who did God say would come from Jacob's lineage?

What else did God say He was giving to Jacob (vs 12)?

Why do you think this would have a much deeper meaning than when God told him this many years before?

What did Jacob call the place (vs 15)? Why?

What happened to Rachel (vs 16-17)?

What did Jacob call his son (vs 18)?

What did Jacob do to mark Rachel's tomb (vs 20)?

*\*\*\*There is debate as to the actual location of this tomb. Some put it closer to Bethlehem and some put it more north since they were on their way to Bethlehem.*

What did Reuben do (vs 22)?

Why do you think this is mentioned?

How many sons did Jacob have (vs 22)?

Why is this very significant?

Where did Jacob travel to (vs 27)?

What happened to Isaac (vs 28)?

Where was Isaac buried (vs 29)?

## MEMORY VERSES

*Matthew 5:25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. 38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. 43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are*

*you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

**Genesis 50:15-26**

Describe a time where you messed up and others forgave you?

Why was this forgiveness so relieving?

Why were the brothers of Joseph afraid of him after Jacob died?

What lessons about forgiveness can you learn from the life of Joseph?