



STUDY GUIDE

GENESIS: Week 13 8.17.14

[set up]

Do you have a recent story related to being a Lifehouse or to someone who is experiencing new life in Christ?

Describe a time in your life where you felt stuck. Stuck physically, emotionally, mentally, relationally or spiritually.

What did it take to move away from that place of “stuck-ness”?

[digging deeper]

As we move through our series in Genesis, we again enter into the life of one of Abraham’s descendants named Jacob. He is a significant person in the timeline of the nation of Israel for several reasons. As we engage this part of Jacobs life from Genesis 28-30, we see that he is not quite the shady manipulator that he once was nor is he quite the faithful man God is making him into. He’s somewhere in the middle. But he’s not stuck. He’s making progress. We see him motivated to move, we see him meeting with God and we see him maturing (message points from last week). As you answer these questions individually or in your lifegroup, you will likely need to flip to previous chapters in Genesis to get a little bit of context if you are not familiar with Jacob’s story.

In Gen. 28:1-5, what are motivating factors is (both negative and positive) for Jacob to move from where he?

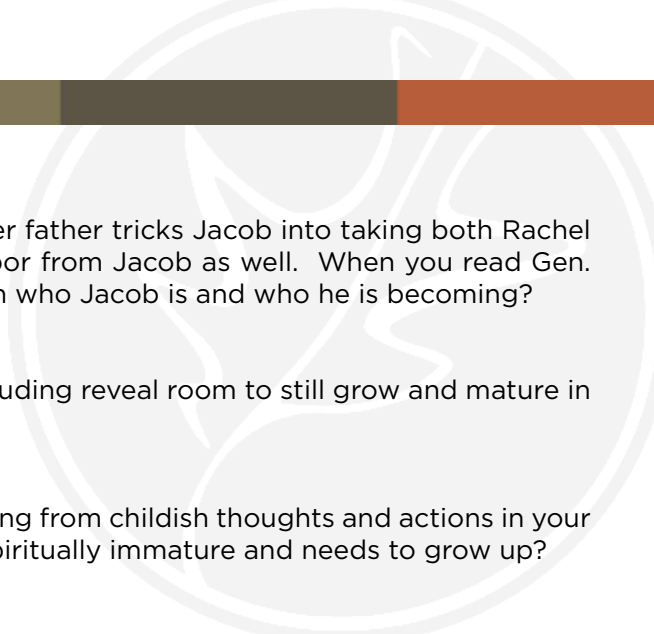

How have you been motivated to grow in your life by both positive and negative factors/situations?

After reading 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal 6:9; Heb. 12:1 – what do you think is God’s heart about us staying motivated to move and to not get stuck?

Jacob has a defining and dramatic encounter with God in Gen. 29:10-22. How do the details of this encounter with God reveal both flawed and faithful thinking on Jacobs part? How does his meeting with God reveal how “in the middle” he is from the man he was to the man he is becoming?

Have you had dramatic and defining meetings with God? How are numerous meetings with God just as defining and important than one big encounter?

How can these verses encourage our need to meet with God? How can you relate to them? 1 Chron. 16:11; Ps. 42:2; Prov. 8:17.



In Gen. 29 and 30, Jacob meets and falls in love with Rachel. Her father tricks Jacob into taking both Rachel and his oldest daughter Leah. He also gets two decades of labor from Jacob as well. When you read Gen. 30:29-34, what takes place that indicates growth and maturity in who Jacob is and who he is becoming?

How does Jacob's handling of Rachel and Leah's jealousy and feuding reveal room to still grow and mature in his life (Gen. 29:31-30:24)?

Read 1 Cor. 13:11 and Eph. 4:14, 15. Where have you seen a departing from childish thoughts and actions in your life, especially spiritually? What may still remain in you that is spiritually immature and needs to grow up?

How do you see God's hand of sovereignty and control still at work despite these messy events? How have you seen God bring good things out of messes you have made or come through?

[living it out]

How stuck are you spiritually right now? Circle the best response:

Going backwards stuck/motionless tiny steps forward walking sprinting

What can be a practical step you can take today/tomorrow to increase forward movement in your relationship with Christ?

When you think about CVC's "Fruit of New Life" (identities we grow in as we mature in Christ), how has this study time helped challenge you to grow as a:

Beloved child? Self feeder? Servant? Investor? Discipler? Missionary?

Review definitions at this link if you need to: <http://cvconline.org/FONL2/fruit.html>

What is a tangible way to put at least one of those realizations to action starting tomorrow?

Close this time in prayer and as you meet with God, pour out your heart over the things He has revealed to you today. Praise Him for the areas you have seen growth. Ask Him to help you get "unstuck" in the areas your struggle. Commit to Him in prayer the action steps that have come to your mind today.

You are always welcome to share with us stories of how this time has helped you grow spiritually, especially if the actions you take produce great fruit for Christ in you and through you! connect@cvconline.org