

WEEK OF June 2, 2021

GENESIS



MAY-AUGUST 2021

Genesis 22

Intro sentence or paragraph...

ICE BREAKER...

Maybe related to the theme of the passage, but lighthearted and fun. Something that helps people get to know each other a bit.

CONVERSATION

No more than 6-7. You may get through all the questions in your group, and you may not. If you

have extra time, ask each other: What other questions came up as you read the text?

MIND

1-2s questions that help us get into the text and understand what is there, what isn't there, who are the characters, what is happening, what's the context.

HEART

How does this text speak to God's heart for us? How does it address the state of our hearts toward God? How does it reveal sin and point me toward repentance?

RELATIONSHIPS

1-2s questions that lead us to consider the state of our relationship to community: the church family, our own families, friends, etc. How does God's word speak to my relationships? How am I invited to grow in love for others?

MISSION

How does this text address my relationship with the world? How does it call me to share the gospel? How am I being invited to serve/give/act for the kingdom of God in my spheres of influence?

PRAYER

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- **Repent.** How does this passage expose your weaknesses and sin?
- **Request.** How do I feel prompted by this passage to ask God to work in my life? Where do I need growth, healing, freedom, obedience, guidance?



SUMMER HOMEGROUPS 2021

Thursday evenings • 7-8:30pm • June 3 - July 20

Connect with God and others through Scripture and prayer

PLAN:	7:00	Gather, break into groups
	7:15	Opening Q
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JULY 1, 2021

GENESIS 28

OPENING Q

What is your favorite place you have traveled?

CONVERSATION Qs

You may get through all the questions in your group, and you may not. If you have extra time, ask each other: What other questions came up as you read the text?

1. Review the plot that forms the context for this week's story. Benji gave us a framework; how would you answer these questions for this passage? 1) Who's the main character? 2) What does he want more than anything else? 3) What's standing in the way?
2. Jacob finds himself in the wilderness, outside the provision and protection of his father's household. As Benji pointed out, his life has "departed from the script"—but he finds that he is still within God's care, within God's household. Can you think of a time when you have experienced a sign of God's care while you were in a "wilderness" season of life?
3. What do you make of Jacob's response to the vision God gave him (see v. 20-22)?

4. Benji reflected on Jacob's response to God in this passage with a challenge to us: "Do I not presume upon the grace of God with my own 'never enough' attitude? Do I not demonstrate a similar self-concern that treats God like a cosmic vending machine? Do I not rush past giving robust thanks for present blessings as I live in a state of discontented focus on the future desires that I have?" Think about how you can give God "robust thanks" today for God's care for you. Share your gratitude with the group (remember these things when you go to prayer).

5. Sunday's sermon ended with a question: "For those of us who have placed our faith in Christ, whose house are you living in? While we may claim to live in Bethel (the house of God), our lives may show otherwise. Are we clinging to our self-made structures of safety and security or are we willing to step out in trust to the true Father's house, to move ourselves into a place of complete trust that the Father will meet us along the way wherever he calls us to go?" Reflect on this together. What tends to stand in the way of your ability to put complete trust in God? What helps you to trust him?

6. Consider the people in your life whom you know are in a season of wilderness, whose lives have been upended for one reason or another. Jot down some names that come to mind. Is there a way you could bless or encourage any of them this week? Include these names and situations when you go to prayer with your group.

PRAYER GUIDE

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RESOURCES

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JULY 8, 2021

GENESIS 29:14-30

OPENING Q

What is a memorable surprise you've experienced?

CONVERSATION Qs

1. Read through the narrative together. What did you notice? What jumps out at you?
2. This story shows some repeating themes from past episodes in this family's history. See if you can spot a few with your group (If you need some hints, notice especially v. 16, v. 25, and v. 30).
3. In his sermon, Benji pointed to this passage as yet another example of how instances of sin tend to crystallize into patterns of sin in our lives. Does this sound familiar? Where have you personally seen this dynamic play out?

4. In the saga of Abraham's family and descendants in Genesis, we've had a lot of opportunity to reflect on painful family dynamics. As Benji said, "the choices of our ancestors do indeed carry implications for our own lives, for our society, and for our world." Are there ways you would like to see God work in your own close relationships? In what ways might God be nudging you to pray or work toward healthier relationships? If you're willing, share one thing with your group, and include these in your time of prayer later.

5. There's really good news for this intractable situation. God has done what we couldn't do and has broken the cycle for us; Jesus is the new and better Jacob. "Unlike Jacob, who was surprised by his marriage to an unlovely bride, Jesus came to pursue the unlovely, in order to make them lovely by his love." Read Ephesians 5:25-27. How can you respond to the pursuing love of God this week?

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JUNE 3, 2021

GENESIS 18:16-19:29

OPENING Q

Share your name, how long you've been attending SB Community Church, and one great piece of advice you've received in your life.

CONVERSATION Qs

You may get through all the questions in your group, and you may not. If you have extra time, ask each other: What other questions came up as you read the text?

1. Read through Gen. 18:16-19:29 together (pick one person to read, or divide up the passage). What jumped out at you in this passage?
2. Who are the main characters here, and where are we in the bigger story? Review with your group what has been happening in the story up until now.
3. Look back at 18:17-19. What is God's reasoning in sharing his plans with Abraham? What do you think God wants Abraham to learn, and why?

4. Can you think of a situation in which you have been uncooperative with God? And/or, when you were consciously cooperating with God's intentions for you? What did that look like?

5. Mike asked, "What relevance does a story about the overthrow of an ancient city have to us in the 21st century?" After hearing the sermon and revisiting the text, how would you answer that question?

6. As Mike said, "The opposite of dwelling in Sodom is abiding in Christ." What does it mean for you to "abide in Christ?" What habits or practices have helped you to do that? What gets in the way?

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JUNE 10, 2021

GENESIS 22:1-19

OPENING Q

Icebreaker—what's the most memorable test you've ever had to prepare for?

CONVERSATION Qs

You may get through all the questions in your group, and you may not. If you have extra time, ask each other: What other questions came up as you read the text?

Read the text through together (have one person read, or have anyone who wants to take turns reading a few verses).

1. Take a few moments to review together who the characters are in this passage and what has been happening in their story.

2. What do you think is going on in Abraham's heart throughout this dramatic story? What is God's heart toward him?

3. As Benji pointed out, Abraham's story as a whole shows he is "capable of remarkable moments of faithfulness and trust, and moments of remarkable faithlessness and mistrust in the character and promises of God." What aspects of God's character and promises do you struggle to trust in?

4. Revisit this quote that Benji shared from Old Testament scholar Tremper Longman III.

“The phrase ‘fear God’ and the related ‘fear of the Lord’ describes a proper relationship with God. One who fears God knows their proper place in the cosmos. This fear does not make one run away, but does reveal an attitude that is willing to submit and obey.”

Where in your life are you seeking this kind of attitude towards God? Where does it feel difficult right now?

5. In this story, as Benji put it, Abraham is facing the loss of his version of the good life. What is your version of the good life? Where in your life are you tempted to “turn good things into ultimate things”?

6. Quoting Benji again: “Genesis 22 forces us to name the reality that life is rarely going to give us the picture that we imagine on the puzzle box. If we’re a part of God’s family, the question we will have to wrestle with is this: how will we respond when our life is shaken?” Read Habakkuk 3:17-18 as a group. Keep these verses in mind as you go to prayer.

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JUNE 17, 2021

GENESIS 25:19-34

OPENING Q

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?

CONVERSATION Qs

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1. After you've read through this week's text (Gen. 25:19-34), the story that unfolds after Abraham's death, go back and read Gen. 17:1-8. What had been God's promises to Abraham? How do those promises show up in this week's story?
2. What other details jump out at you from this week's story?
3. Mike's sermon centered on three startling themes in this story of Jacob and Esau. These "three offenses," as he called them, are:
 - a. The offense of God's sovereignty—that God works according to his own plans and timeline, not ours;
 - b. The offense of sin—that we fail to value what God values, that we believe our own purposes and plans are best;
 - c. The offense of discipleship—that God calls us to give up everything and follow him.

Where in the story do you see these three themes playing out? If you've been following along in Genesis, where else have you seen these themes before?

4. As Mike pointed out, Esau's choice showed how little he valued what God valued. What are some things you know God values that you are learning to prioritize in your life right now?

5. Esau's actions in this story display a character intent on immediate gratification, at the expense of God's purposes for his life. What is at stake for us if we're unable to delay immediate gratification? Think about consequences to relationships with others and with God, as well as personal consequences.

6. In what areas of life are you struggling to be patient for God to work in your life? When you go to prayer as a group, pray for one another specifically in this area.

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JUNE 24, 2021

GENESIS 27

OPENING Q

What's your favorite place where you've traveled?

CONVERSATION Qs

You may get through all the questions in your group, and you may not. If you have extra time, ask each other: What other questions came up as you read the text?

"The harmony of the garden is clearly shattered when Adam and Eve eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Their relationship with God, with each other, and with creation is fractured... God now seeks to restore the creation blessing, broken by human sin, through the agency of Abraham and his descendants." -Tremper Longman.

1. With your group, refresh each others' memories as to who the characters are and where we are in the plot at this point. What is the context for the "blessing" at the center of this story's plot?
2. Last week we talked about the "offense" of God's sovereignty—that God gets to determine what is best, and that can be really hard for people to swallow. Where do you see this struggle playing out in our story today?

3. What is a blessing, and what does it mean to bless someone? How is the idea of blessing in the Biblical story different from the way we use the term today?

4. Just as we've seen in the preceding stories about this family line, our passage this week has some breathtaking examples of family dysfunction. How has the gospel shed light on your own family patterns, possibly influencing you to make different choices or establish new patterns?

5. In his sermon this week, Benji pointed out that this story triggers our longings for a better Father. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and Mark 10:45 together as a group. Where do you see contrasts with our story in Genesis 27?

6. Reflect on this quote from Sunday's sermon:

“Now we have the privilege of living life under the blessing of God because Jesus was willing to live under the curse of God for our sin. We have the privilege of living with Jesus as our older brother, and with one another as grateful siblings within the family of God and called to participate in God's redemptive mission of blessing the world. That's what we remember when we come to communion.”

What are your thoughts on being “called to participate in God's redemptive mission of blessing the world”? What do you think that might mean for you as an individual, and for all of us together as a church family?

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