



Small Group Discussion Guide

Jacob

Spring has sprung! Anyone have any "spring projects" they'd like to accomplish before summer? Take time to share your thoughts and then pray for God's direction and energy to accomplish His will between now and summer.

- I. Last week we saw Jacob steal his brother's blessing and flee home. Read [Genesis 28:10-22](#).
 - a. Jacob has his own encounter with God. To date God has been the God of his father and grandfather. Has anything changed yet? Explain.
 - b. What does God promise to do for Jacob and how does this compare with God's covenant with Abraham in [Genesis 12:1-3](#)?
 - c. Does Jacob respond to God in faith? (*Note verses 20-22*).
- II. Read [Genesis 29:13-30](#).
 - a. Laban is somewhat sneaky like Jacob. What exactly does he do?
 - b. What problem arises in Jacob's newly formed household?
- III. Now read [Genesis 29:31-30:24](#). Things have really gotten competitive!
 - a. What automatic problems arise when a man has more than one wife?
 - b. While polygamy is in the bible, is it biblical? Explain your answer.
- IV. Skip over to [Genesis 32](#). Jacob finally leaves his Uncle Laban. He is now a rich man with much livestock, servants and a big family. But he must face his brother Esau. Read [Genesis 32:1-12](#).
 - a. According to Jacob's prayer in [verses 9-12](#), what is his attitude toward God now?
 - b. In what sense has danger and fear softened his heart toward God?
 - i. How have you seen this happen in your life?
- V. Finally, read [Genesis 32:22-32](#).
 - a. How would you explain this incident?
 - b. Who is the wrestler and why does Jacob demand a blessing from him?
 - c. What is the significance of Jacob receiving a new name?
 - d. How could we apply this example to our own lives today?

Close your group in prayer. Ask God to give you a greater appreciation for the name you now bear as a Christian.



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