

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Genesis 35:1 – 36:43

(Sunday, May 2)

1. a. The significance of Bethel (v. 1) as an important place in Jacob's spiritual pilgrimage is substantial. What place from your past or present is of spiritual importance to you?
b. What makes this place so meaningful?

2. a. God's chosen people carried foreign gods around with them in the land of promise (v. 2). What about the church today? What foreign gods from the past might Christians be tempted to hold on to?
b. What does it look like to "bury" those gods with the help of God?

3. a. What hindsight does Jacob display (v. 3) in his description of God?
b. In what ways has God answered you in times of distress?
c. How is God with you wherever you go?

4. a. Jacob erected an altar in response to God's blessing (v. 9; 14). How has God blessed you?
b. In what ways do you respond to God's blessing?

5.
 - a. Jacob changes his child's name from "son of my trouble" to Benjamin, "son of my right hand," (v. 18). What does this tell us about Jacob's attitude toward his youngest son?
 - b. How can we, like Jacob, transform the pain of losing someone we love into courage for the future?

6.
 - a. According to cultural practices, the firstborn son would be given possession of his father's concubines upon the death of his father. What attitude toward his father does Reuben's sinful action imply (v. 22)?
 - b. Reuben will suffer the long-term consequences of his actions (See Genesis 49: 3-4; 1 Chronicles 5: 1.). Can you think of a past action that has had permanent consequences in your own life? Explain.
 - c. What does it look like to experience God's grace in the midst of those permanent consequences?

7.
 - a. How has Esau's choice of wives (ch.36 vv.2-3) exposed his indifference toward his family's feelings, and ultimately toward God (See Hebrews 12: 16)?
 - b. What areas of a Christian's life might reveal indifference toward God and His Word? What should one do to remedy that?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Genesis 35: 3

³Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone."

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for being with me wherever I go. Remind me to cry out to you in days of distress. Teach me how to hear your still small voice. Help me to walk in the power of your Holy Spirit and follow you wholeheartedly. May the sufficiency of your grace help me to walk in your freedom – in Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.