

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.

Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway! Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)

Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)

Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)

Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker Have you ever visited the grave of a famous person? What was remarkable about that experience?

Read Genesis 49:29-33

A Good Death

Jacob's name means "supplanter", taking and replacing. Jacob is renamed to Israel, "struggled with God (and men and prevailed)" in Gen 32.

Question: with many Biblical characters, once God gives them a new name it's used consistently (think of Paul and Abraham). What might it say of Israel that he keeps being called Jacob?

Jacob's life reminds us that God justifies the ungodly. Have you seen God save people who don't deserve it? How has that changed your walk?

Question: How does God's calling of Jacob bring you the most comfort?

- It reminds me I'm not the only person of God's that still struggles with sin
- It reminds me that what's important is that God has me, not that I have Him
- It reminds me that God's promises are sure

As Jacob lives his last days, and looks back on his life, he sees God working his promises through his family. What area(s) of your life have you seen God working through? What area(s) do you hope to see more of?

A Good Hope

What is the very last thing that Jacob does? Why is it significant that he saves it for last?

Jacob's instructions served as a confirmation that he trusted in God to work beyond himself. What are some good practices of self-forgetfulness that have helped remind you of God's control?

Jacob's instructions also served as a reminder to his family that their home was not in Egypt. What does remembering that the Earth is not our home mean for us?

It can be difficult to keep in mind that our home is not in this world. How confident are you about the life to come?

- I'm not confident. I have serious doubts.
- I have some confidence but regularly worry about what comes after death
- I have "head" confidence, but oftentimes lack "heart" assurance
- I feel confident and ready to face the Lord on the last day.
- Other: _____

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:
