



CONNECT

Cross-cultural missions can often help us see our own spiritual blind spots (as well as those in other cultures). Have you ever been on an international mission trip? Share your experience.

REVIEW

What are spiritual blind spots? Where do they come from? Share an example of a spiritual blind spot from history.

What is the danger of being a homogenous church when it comes to spiritual blind spots? How can we be intentional in overcoming blind spots?

Glance over Genesis 25, 27-35, 37, 42-43. What do these chapters reveal to us about Jacob? Is Jacob cast in a positive or negative light?

What do the up's and down's of Jacob's life teach us about grace? How does this give us encouragement in our own up's and down's?

Read Genesis 43:1-14. Why is Jacob so reluctant to let Benjamin go to Egypt, even when it seems like the logical choice? What is your "Benjamin" that you hold on to even when logic says otherwise?



STUDY

This week's sermon challenged us to examine our heart to see where the true source of contentment in our lives was: God or somewhere else. *Read Philippians 4:4-13 and answer the following questions:*

- After reading this passage, how would you describe contentment?
- What role does rejoicing have in God-centered contentment? What is the role of prayer?
- Studies show that the more connected we become through social media, the more discontent we become. Why? What are some ways that you can avoid the "comparison trap" and find contentment in God alone?

APPLY

Read Matthew 6:19-24. What is the connection between your finances and your heart? On your own, take a few seconds and count up your discretionary expenditures. What do you spend most of your excess money on? What does this reveal about your heart? Share your findings with the group.

One large spiritual blind spot of American Christianity is materialism. Why is this a blind spot? How can the witness of the global church help you correct this?

Lay out a plan for addressing the lure of materialism in your own heart.