

Growth Group Agenda Week of September 24

Workin' on a Dream

Our Scripture: Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

Sermon Fill-Ins

Are you _____ *up* or *down* the ladder of life today?

_____ and quiet time can be illuminating.

We are _____ to be blessed and a blessing.

Ice Breaker

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Where were you in the birth order?
(optional) With whom in your family did you compete as a child for love or recognition? What was that like?

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

Read Genesis 25:19-26.

- How does this story help us understand the character and personality of Jacob?
- What does the name “Jacob,” mean?
- What is a supplanter?

Read Genesis 25:27-35.

- How did Jacob first connive to supplant Esau?
- What does this episode tell us about Esau?
- Read Genesis 27:1-23. What role did Jacob’s mother play in his deceit of Esau and his father Isaac?

Read Genesis 28: 14. What is the purpose of this story of Jacob?

Media Mix -- (2 options and a book recommendation)

Children’s story of Jacob: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdUxa_xNCJk Share with each other, your kids or grandkids.

“Give us Clean Hands,” This worship song is based on the story of Jacob. Take quiet time as a group to reflect on God’s presence in the “ups” and “downs” of your life as you watch this video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fT4Rt04In4w>

Book Recommendation: Richard Rohr: “Falling Upward-A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life.” Very good to read and ponder.

Bringing It Home

1. Why do you think the Bible never covers up the shortcomings of people like Jacob and his mother Rebecca?
2. Are you ascending or descending in life today? Tell about your possibilities and your challenges.
3. What wisdom has God brought you in episodes of struggle?
3. Tell about a time when your struggle allowed God to use you to be a blessing for someone else.

Prayer Time (A guided meditation)

Sit comfortably and take a couple of deep breaths. Relax your arms and legs and focus for a moment on your breathing.

Picture yourself sitting outside in a peaceful place on a warm day. Beautiful fluffy clouds are floating overhead. Imagine the clouds representing events of your life as you remember.

As one cloud passes by, it represents a good memory and it makes you smile. Think about that for a few quiet moments.

Now another cloud appears and you recall an episode in your life that was difficult. Don't be afraid to remember one of those moments. Picture God holding you there in that time. What did you learn about yourself? What did this event teach you?

Now let the sun break through again and realize that God has been with you in both the good and the bad times.

Take a deep breath and reenter the present moment. Thank God for quiet moments of reflection where like Jacob, you can hear God's call.



Housekeeping

1. Welcome everyone to this first week of Fall Growth Groups. Remind them that this is week 1 of a 3 week trial period at which point anyone can opt out guilt free OR covenant for the remainder of this 8 week series.
2. Did you hear the sermon this week? It is available online at our website only as a podcast (not a video). We think this will make it easier to access. People could listen on their commute, for example. Let us know what you think.
3. Who is bringing the refreshments next time?
4. If there are new people in your group, how did this experience go? What might we do to make our group more comfortable and welcoming?
5. Who do you know that you could invite to your group? Please invite people if there are less than 14 members in your group. Especially remember to invite those who are not part of Atonement.