



Small Group Discussion Guide

ICE BREAKER: If there was one veteran or war hero you could talk to, who would it be and what would you ask them?

INSTRUCTIONS: If your group meets bi-weekly, do 3 & 4.

1. Pastor Nate reminded us that we all come from a family - whether its impact was positive, negative or somewhere in between. Do you think your parents had a healthy understanding of who they were? How did their understanding of themselves impact your relationship? How did it impact your understanding of yourself?
2. As we listened to the story of Jacob, we learned that favoritism leads to frustration within a family. Read Genesis 25:27-28. Did you struggle with favoritism as a child or parent? What ramifications did your family experience as a result? Pastor Nate stated that favoritism can frustrate to the point of poor choices - which in turn have a ripple effect. Read Genesis 27:14-17. What poor choices did both Jacob and Rebekah make as a result of Rebekah's favoritism? Have you ever justified your actions when you were seeking a particular result within your family? What was the outcome?
3. As Jacob's story unfolds, we see him struggle with acceptance, manipulation and accomplishment. Read Genesis 27:18-19a. Why do you think Jacob struggled to gain his father's acceptance? How might Isaac have helped Jacob in his insecurity? How does a child's desire for acceptance manifest itself if unmet? Read Genesis 28:20-21. How does Jacob attempt to manipulate God in this passage? Have you been tempted to make bargains with God? If so, what occurred? Read Genesis 31:40-42. In this part of the story, Jacob feels like he's owed something because of what he accomplished. Why do we tend to define ourselves by what we've done? What is the risk in this?
4. Read Genesis 32:22-28. Only when Jacob began wrestling with God did he begin to understand who he really was. Why do you think God allowed Jacob to struggle or wrestle with Him? Review the message notes for the meaning of "Jacob" and "Israel." How does wrestling with God - hanging on to Him - define us? How does it help move us forward?

Personal Guide for Week of May 27th

Take time this week to read the complete story of Jacob's life.

DAY 1: Read Genesis 25:19-34, 27

DAY 2: Read Genesis 28-29

DAY 3: Read Genesis 30-31

DAY 4: Read Genesis 32-33

DAY 5: Read Genesis 34-35

IS THIS US?

MESSAGE NOTES AND SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES

“WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS?”

MAY 27, 2018

IS THIS US?

A SERIES ON PARENTING AND FAMILIES

“Who Are Your Parents”
[Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

_____ are your parents?

A question we need to answer...

...for our _____.

...for _____.

Family of _____ (Genesis 25:21-26a NLT)

_____ Frustrates (Genesis 25:27-28 NLT)

Poor _____ often have ripple effects. (Genesis 27:14-17 NLT)

“Do as I say, not as I do” can be _____.

_____ **with...**

_____ (Genesis 27:18-19a NLT)

_____ (Genesis 28:20-21 NLT)

_____ (Genesis 31:40-42 NLT)

Who Are _____?

When we _____ ourselves as we are, then we can take _____ forward.
(Genesis 32:27-28 NLT)

Jacob = _____

Israel = One who _____ with God

Who we _____ with can define us. (Romans 8:14, 17a)

Is This Us?:

- What is your _____ today?
- Are you holding on to _____?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Who Are Your Parents?”
[Nate Sicker, Small Groups Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Who Are Your Parents?

A question we need to answer...

...for our children.

...for ourselves.

Family of origin (Genesis 25:21-26a NLT)

Favoritism Frustrates (Genesis 25:27-28 NLT)

Poor choices often have ripple effects. (Genesis 27:14-17 NLT)

“Do as I say, not as I do” can be disastrous.

Struggling with...

Acceptance (Genesis 27:18-19a NLT)

Manipulation (Genesis 28:20-21 NLT)

Accomplishment (Genesis 31:40-42 NLT)

Who Are You?

When we see ourselves as we are, then we can take steps forward. (Genesis 32:27-28 NLT)

Jacob=Deceiver

Israel=One who struggles with God

Who we struggle with can define us. (Romans 8: 14, 17a)

Is This Us?:

What is your struggle today?

Are you holding on to Jesus?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use it to let us know about your commitment, too!