

SERMON: Trusting God's Providence
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 26:1-26

SERIES: Jacob: Seeking True Blessing
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

September 22, 2019

THE GOAL: The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS: Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

REVIEW: Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

Observation: as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

Interpretation: answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

Application: answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

GO DEEPER: Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. How does God encourage Isaac in 26:1-5? What promises does God make to Isaac?

2. God's greatest blessing is his presence. What are ways that we might value blessings FROM God over the blessing of God's presence? Think about how you responded or prayed in a recent time of trial or testing. Did you ask to experience relief or did you pray to experience God?

3. In Genesis 26: 6-11 how did Isaac fear man rather than God? In what areas of your life are you tempted to fear man rather than God? Think about who you might be "performing" for or whose approval you are seeking. Or who you literally are afraid of. How does knowing that you are in Christ help you overcome the fear of man?

4. Where do you see Isaac experiencing both prosperity and lack in Gen. 26? Are you in a test of "prosperity" right now or a test of "lack?" Both? Are you experiencing God's peace? How does the gospel allow us to experience God's peaceful presence in both times of prosperity and times of lack?

Pray: Praise God for his presence in your life through the Spirit. Confess ways that you have feared man rather than God. Ask God to give you an experience of his presence daily as you trust the gospel.