

SERMON: Trusting God's Providence
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 24:1-67

SERIES: Jacob: Seeking True Blessing
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

September 8, 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. God's providence: God directing and providing for everything in the universe to accomplish his good and perfect will. What makes it easy/difficult to trust God's providence? Do you believe that God is working for your good in all things?
2. "We never graduate from having to live by faith." How does Abraham demonstrate his faith in this story? How does it inspire you to see him continuing to trust God in his final days? Is there an area of your life where you need to live more by faith and less by sight?
3. "Providence should lead to obedience not complacency." Is there anything that God has made clear in his word that you are unwilling to do?
4. How does God's providential care for Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24 point us forward to Christ? How does God's providential care for you each day point us back to Christ?

Pray: Praise God for his providential care. Confess ways that you have failed to trust God and his providence. Ask God to reveal his love and grace to you more and more so that you can trust him more and more.