

SERMON: Grasping for Blessing
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 27

SERIES: Jacob: Seeking True Blessings
SPEAKER: Pastor Mark
October 6, 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. Who do you relate to the most in Genesis 27? Isaac? Rebekah? Jacob? Esau? Who do you sympathize with? Why?
2. Can you think of a time when somebody "blessed" you (spoke a kind word over you)? Can you think of a time when somebody "cursed" you (spoke something hurtful about you)? How did these words impact your life? Your future? What do you tend to speak into the lives of others? Think especially about those you have authority over (children, employees, students, etc.).
3. "We all try to be something we're not in order to get blessing from others." How does Jacob demonstrate this truth? Where have you seen this truth in your own life? Whose blessing are you grasping for?
4. The Old Testament idea of blessing shows us that we cannot "bless" ourselves. The blessing must come from outside of us. This is contrary to today's thinking which says we can control our own identity and destiny. In what way are you trying to control your own identity and destiny? How is that working out for you so far?
5. In Jesus Christ we are all the firstborn. Read Ephesians 1:3-7. What blessings has God declared over us? How can you live from the freedom of these blessings this week? Think about your answers to #3 and #4.

Pray: Praise God for the undeserved blessing of son-ship he has bestowed on us. Confess ways that you have been grasping for blessing from someone other than God. Ask God to guide you into the freedom of his blessing in Christ.