



GENESIS

FAILURE AND FAITHFULNESS



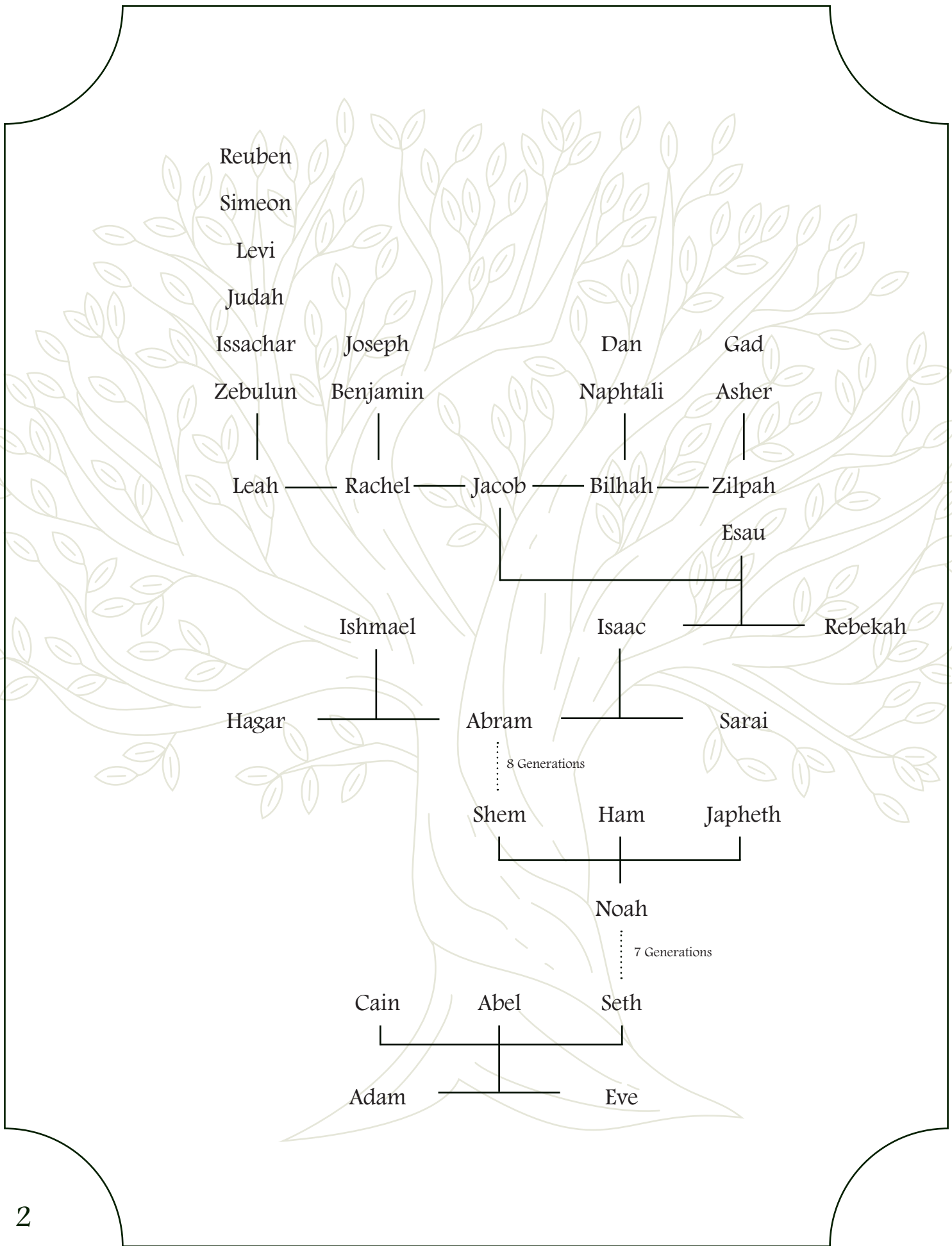


TABLE OF CONTENTS

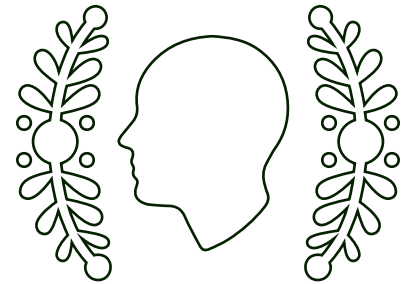
Family Tree	2
Head, Heart, Hands Overview	4
Genesis Introduction	5
Week 1: Creation	6
Week 2: The Fall	8
Week 3: Cain and Abel	10
Week 4: Noah	12
Week 5: Abram	14
Week 6: Sarai and Hagar	16
Week 7: Isaac	18
Week 8: Jacob and Esau	20
Week 9: Rachel and Leah	22
Week 10: Joseph	24
Notes	26

HEAD, HEART, HANDS STUDY METHOD

Jesus said the greatest command is to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength so we want to apply all areas of ourselves to the Scriptures (Mark 12:30). Each week there will be questions to think through in the categories of our Head, Heart, and Hands.

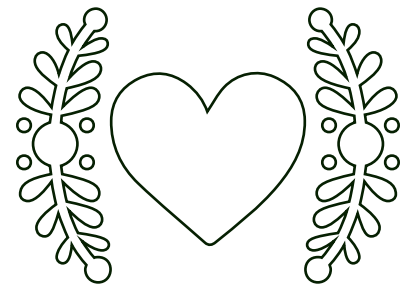
Head

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2 God has given us a mind that needs to be transformed. We want to think hard and apply our mind for the glory of God and to know everything God wants us to know from the Bible. In this section think like a detective to get down all the facts and ask questions.



Heart

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” – Hebrews 4:12. We want the text to not only impact the way we think but we want it to go down deep into our souls where our worldview and emotions come from. In this section try to think more deeply about how the text impacts your life – past, present, and future.



Hands

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” – James 1:22. The Word of God should not just change the way we think and feel but transform our actions and the way we do life. Try to have an objective application each week that you can apply right away.



GENESIS

FAILURE AND FAITHFULNESS

Genesis tells the story of humanity's *failure* and God's *faithfulness* to redeem the whole world through one family.

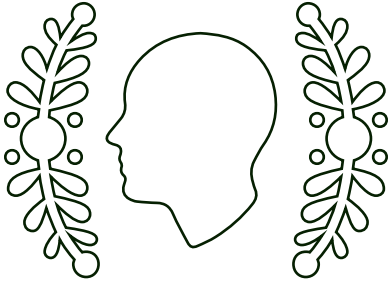
Everyone has a family. You can't come into the world without one, but our family stories are as varied as they come.

From the earth's beginning, God had a plan to save people from their sins through His son, Jesus. In order to get to Jesus, God used a family. That family was full of people who failed, people who were faithful, and, just like our own families, people who were a complicated mixture of both. Genesis tells the story of this family through rivalry, romance, risk, and redemption. If you are a follower of Jesus, this matters for you. The Bible says that because of Jesus, you are a part of God's family. The people in Genesis are in your spiritual family tree. So, what will we learn from our predecessors in the faith?

Will we repeat their mistakes and chase our own agendas, or will we participate in God's faithful promise to reach all the nations through one family?

CREATION

Read: Genesis 1 and 2



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

Why is the truth that God created everything so fundamental to the Christian faith?

What are the differences between humans and the rest of the creation?

What were the commands that God gave Adam and Eve?

Read John 1:1-3, 14 and Hebrews 1:1-3. What role did Jesus play in creation?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

God was fully present with Adam and Eve in the garden, and they felt no shame. How is that different from our reality today? How does Jesus take away our shame?

God says it is not good for people to be alone. How have you experienced this truth in your own life?

God made you in his image and likeness. What does that mean? How does that affect how you see yourself?



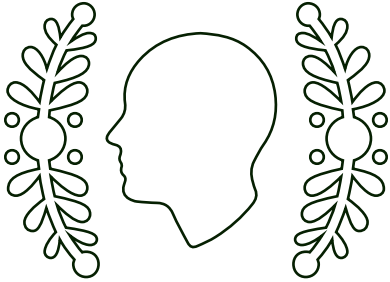
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

God gave people authority over creation - to take care of the earth and make it flourish. What does it mean to responsibly take care of what God has given you?

What's one thing you learned from Genesis 1-2 that affects how you view the world around you or that you want to apply to your everyday life?

THE FALL

Read: Genesis 3:1~24



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

Write down 7-10 observations from this passage. (Characters, setting, repeated words/ideas, tone, etc)

In Genesis 3:1-5, how does the serpent call God a liar?

What was tempting to Eve about eating the fruit?

Compare Genesis 2:25 with 3:7-10. What was one of the results of sin's entrance into the world?

Summarize the punishments given in 3:14-19.



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

How does God show his justice and mercy in this chapter, and how does that impact your trust in God's character?

Adam and Eve use fig leaves to cover up their shame. What are some things that you use to try to hide your own shame? What do you see people around you using to cover up their shame? (Examples: success, relationships, substances, etc)

In verses 14-19 God curses the serpent and the ground, and gives consequences to Adam and Eve. How do you experience these consequences in your life?



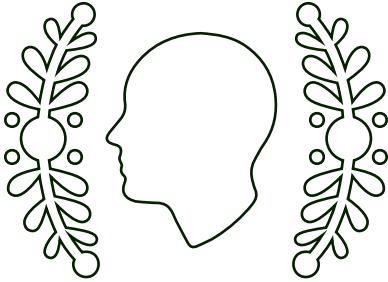
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

A more full expression of the phrase "knowledge of good and evil" is "deciding for yourself what is right or wrong". What would it look like to trust God's definition of right and wrong instead of your own?

Read Romans 5:12-21. How does Jesus compare with Adam? How does this comparison affect your understanding of the gospel? (Hint: verses 17-19)

CAIN AND ABEL + THE TOWER OF BABEL

Read: Genesis 4:1~16 and Genesis 11:1~9



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

List 7-10 observations from these passages. What do you notice? What reminds you of other things that have already happened?

Cain and Abel

What are the questions God asks Cain?

What was Cain's punishment?

Tower of Babel

In 11:4, what was the people's desire?

How does this desire go against God's command from 9:1?

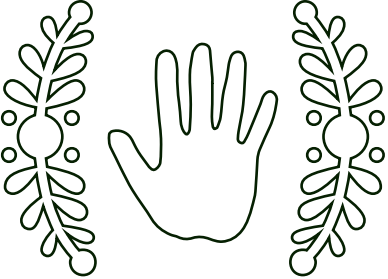
What does God do in response to the people building the tower?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

God told Cain that he must rule over his sin instead of letting sin rule over him (4:7). Read Romans 6:16-18. If we are following Jesus, how are we different from Cain?

How do you see people around you trying to “make a name for themselves” today?



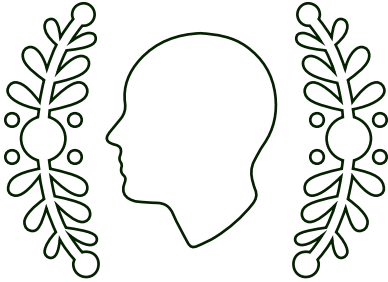
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

Cain allowed his anger to drive him to sin. Read James 1:19-20, Proverbs 29:11, and Proverbs 15:18. How can we handle our anger in a way that does not cause us to sin?

When they built the Tower of Babel, the people wanted to make a name for themselves. In Genesis 12:2, God says to Abraham, “I will make your name great.” What would it look like for you to trust God with your reputation?

NOAH

Read: Genesis 6:5 ~ 8:22



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

In several bullet points, summarize the main events of Genesis 6:5 through 8:22.

What does it mean that Noah “walked with God” and “found favor in God’s eyes”?

After Noah and his family left the ark, what was the first thing they did? Why do you think he would do this?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

We know that Noah walked faithfully with God, and Genesis 6:22 says “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.” How does faith connect with obedience?

Some people see the flood as a cruel and perhaps hasty act of judgment, and others see it as a merciful act to restrain humanity from descending into further evil. What’s your perception of God’s character based on Noah’s story?



HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

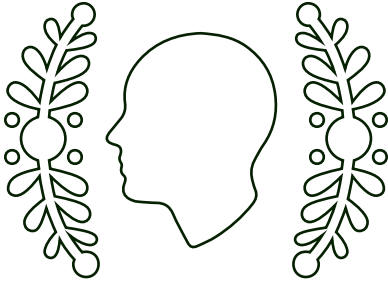
God asked Noah to do something that did not make sense to the rest of his community. Have you ever had a time in your life where obeying God meant making a choice that no one else was making? What was that like?

Even though Noah wasn’t perfect, it’s amazing that he was known for being a man who followed God. What is a step you need to take in order to “walk with God” more closely?

Just for fun: according to the instructions in 6:14-16, draw your own portrayal of the ark.

ABRAM

Read: Genesis 12:1~9, 15:1~21



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

What are the things God promises to Abram?

Why is it significant that God says that He will bless all the nations?

Genesis 15:6 says “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.” What does that say about how God wants people to respond to Him?

“A covenant is a chosen relationship or partnership in which two parties make binding promises to each other and work together to reach a common goal. They’re often accompanied by oaths, signs, and ceremonies. Covenants contain defined obligations and commitments, but differ from a contract in that they are relational and personal. Think of a marriage. In love, a husband and wife choose to enter into a formal relationship binding themselves to one another in lifelong faithfulness and devotion. They then work as partners to reach a common goal, like building a career or raising children together. That’s a covenant.” - The Bible Project



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

In Genesis 15, God makes a covenant with Abram that he would make his offspring as numerous as the stars. Then, as a sign of this covenant, God's presence passes through the sacrifice, signifying that it is God's responsibility to uphold this covenant. What does it say about God that he would decide to uphold the covenant no matter what, and how does that make you feel?

Read Hebrews 11:8-12. God fulfilled his promise to Abram (whose name later changed to Abraham)! How does seeing this story play out across Scripture affect your view of the Bible and/or God?



HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

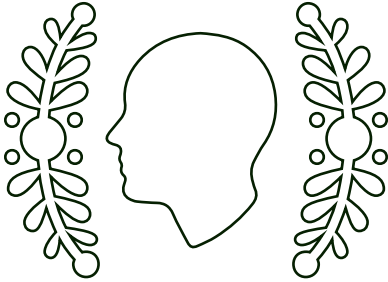
Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Luke 22:19-22. What is the covenant that Jesus sets in motion? How does that affect us today?

The sign of the covenant with Abram was circumcision. This represented that Abraham's family was committed to following God. Now that Jesus has come, what is the sign of our covenant with God? What does this mean? (Hint: Galatians 5:6)

What is a step you can take in order to grow in the covenant relationship Jesus has made with you?

SARAI AND HAGAR

Read: Genesis 16, 17:15~27, 18:11~15, and 21:1~6



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

Make 7-10 observations from Sarai and Hagar's story. What are the main themes, characters, events? What's repeated? What catches your attention and what questions do you have?

List the ways you see God providing both for Sarai and for Hagar.

List the ways you see their sin affecting them.



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

When God confronts Hagar in the desert, she says, “You are the God who sees me”. How does knowing that God sees you affect your relationship with Him?

In Genesis 17:15, Sarai’s name is changed to Sarah. Often, when God makes a covenant with someone, their name changes. How does our “name” change when we enter into Jesus’ covenant? (Hint: John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 5:17)



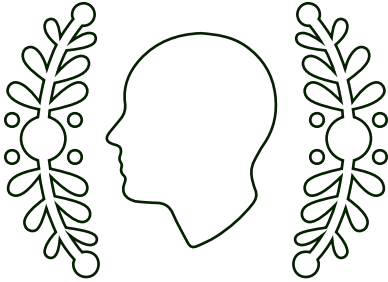
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

Notice the parallels between Genesis 16:5-6 and 3:12-13. Why is it so hard to take responsibility for our own sin? Is there a sin in your life that you’ve blamed on someone else that you need to take responsibility for?

It’s easy to wonder how Abraham and Sarah could doubt God’s clear promise, but in reality, we do it all the time. Genesis 18:14 says, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” What has God promised you that you have a hard time believing? How have you seen God’s promises come true in your life?

ISAAC

Read: Genesis 22:1~18 and chapter 24



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

Make some observations from the story of Isaac. What do you see as some themes in Isaac's life so far?

What connections do you see between Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and the death of Jesus? (Hint: Matthew 3:17, John 19:17, John 1:29)

How do Abraham's actions prove his trust in God?

What are the things that Abraham's servant prays for when he's trying to find a wife for Isaac? How does God answer those prayers?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

Just like Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, God sacrificed his only son in our place (Romans 8:32). Jesus' death and resurrection are the reasons we don't have to offer blood sacrifices anymore. Can you imagine what it would be like to give up someone you love? How does this affect your view of God and his love for us?

Rebekah was willing to leave her life behind in order to participate in something God had clearly orchestrated. What must her relationship with God have been like in order for her to make that choice?



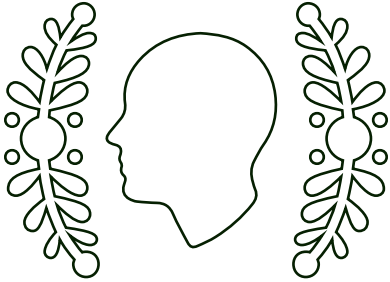
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

God tested Abraham's faithfulness to him by asking him to give up someone he loved. Is there anything in your life that you aren't willing to give up for the sake of Jesus?

Abraham's servant was not afraid to ask God for specific things. Do you pray specifically, trusting God can provide what you're asking for? Is there a situation you need to start praying about and inviting God into?

JACOB AND ESAU

Read: Genesis 25:19~34, chapter 27, 28:1~9



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

In a few bullet points or sentences, list the main events of this story of Jacob and Esau.

God tells Rebekah something really important in Genesis 25:23. Who does God say will end up serving whom? Why does this matter for the rest of the story?

At different points in the story, each member of this family chooses to do what they think is right rather than obey God. How do you see each of them making choices that obey their flesh?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

What is our birthright (inheritance) in Christ, and why does that matter?
(Ephesians 1:3-14)

Despite Jacob's deception and his family's dysfunction, God still chose Jacob to have many descendants and carry out God's promise. What does this tell you about who God will use to accomplish His purposes?



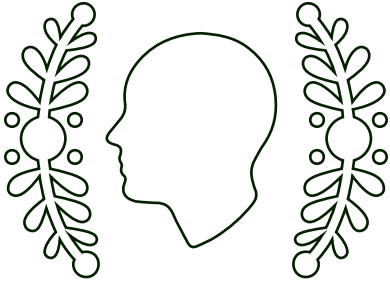
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

Jesus offers us an inheritance when we become part of His family. Yet, like Esau, we easily shrug it off and chase after our own desires. Is there an area of your life where you need to choose what Jesus is offering you instead of what the world offers?

What are one or two things from this week's study that you want to apply to your life?

RACHEL AND LEAH

Read: Genesis 25:19~34, chapter 27, 28:1~9



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

List the sons born to Rachel, Leah, and their maids. What do each of their names mean and how do those names connect with the progression of the story? (There are usually notes at the bottom of the page in your Bible that will help you here.)

Think back to Jacob's dealings with Isaac and Esau. How did Laban give Jacob a "taste of his own medicine" by his actions?

What themes in this story remind you of the stories we've already talked about?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

How does God demonstrate his love for the unloved? Why is this such an important attribute of God for us to know?

How does this passage warn us against putting our hope in other people to satisfy us?



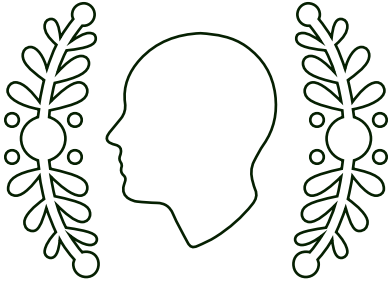
HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

What do you think God would want you to do when you are tempted to compare yourself with others?

Is there anyone that you are jealous of right now, like Rachel and Leah were jealous of each other? What is a step you could take in order to move away from jealousy and toward being satisfied in the Lord?

JOSEPH

Read: Genesis 37, 39-42, 45, end of 50



HEAD- *Thinking deeply about the content and analyzing like a detective.*

What sticks out to you the most from Joseph's story?

Joseph and his brothers, at least for a time, continue the legacy of family rivalry that we've seen throughout Genesis. What connections do you see between Joseph's story and the stories of some other family members we've talked about?

In Genesis 37:26-27, Judah tries to accomplish his sinful plans without getting in "too much" trouble. How does this compare to Joseph's response in 39:9 when Joseph could have chosen to sin and probably covered it up?

What does Joseph's response in 50:20 say about his view of God's sovereignty and character?



HEART - *Connecting the content to our emotions, identity, and worldview.*

Genesis 39:3 says that the Lord gave Joseph success in everything he did. Still, Joseph faced some pretty tough challenges. What do you think he felt as he was separated from his family and jailed unfairly?

How does it make you feel to hear that Joseph forgave his brothers and saw his circumstances as a good thing from God?



HANDS - *How will the text transform the way we live?*

Has there been a time in your life where you went through a hard circumstance but, as you look back, you can see how God used it for good?

What would it look like for you to grow to trust God like Joseph did?

Notes

Notes



Content by: Ellen Warner Design by: Jacob Cheatham

