



Week #1: God FOR Jacob

Jacob's Story Genesis 25-35: Lessons for Runners

- Let God _____ a _____ to you.

I am the Eternal One, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are now lying is the land I have promised to give to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be as many as there are specks of dust on the earth. You will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Through your descendants, all the families of the earth will find true blessing. Know I am with you, and I will watch over you no matter where you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done all I have promised you.

So early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had put under his head, set it up as a pillar, and then poured oil on top of it to commemorate his experience with God. He named that place Bethel, which means "house of God."...

Genesis 28:13-15,18-19 (VOICE)

- Let God _____ you to _____ you.

When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

Genesis 29:25 (NIV)

"...I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land."

Genesis 31:12-13 (NIV)

- Let God _____ you.

This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob's hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

"What is your name?" the man asked.

He replied, "Jacob."

"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

Genesis 32:24-28 (NLT)

...God blessed him, saying, "Your name is Jacob, but you will not be called Jacob any longer. From now on your name will be Israel." So God renamed him Israel.

Then God said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Be fruitful and multiply. You will become a great nation, even many nations. Kings will be among your descendants! And I will give you the land I once gave to Abraham and Isaac. Yes, I will give it to you and your descendants after you."

Genesis 35:9-12 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Share a time when you've come up short of your own expectations of yourself, or those of others, but still found yourself being able to remember who God says you are. What was that experience like for you?
2. In what ways do you think we make things worse by allowing our failure to define us?
3. Have you ever seen God's goodness come through even after a terrible struggle?
4. In what ways have you seen yourself rise above your past? And in what ways are you still trapped believing your past defines your future?

Recommended Resources

- *God Never Gives Up on You: What Jacob's Story Teaches Us About Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love*, by Max Lucado
- *Life of the Beloved*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen
- *Defined: Who God Says You Are*, by Stephen and Alex Kendrick
- *You Are More Than You've Been Told*, by Hosanna Wong

Week #1: God FOR Jacob - **FILL**

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- **Let God reveal a bigger story to you.**

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Genesis 28:13-15,18-19 (VOICE)

- **Let God teach you to reach you.**

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Genesis 31:12-13 (NIV)

- **Let God re-name you.**

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(VOICE) The Voice

(NIV) New International Version

(NLT) New Living Translation