

# genesis

**DIG  
DEEPER**  
questions

## September 15: Patterns and Promises, Genesis 26

1. If you could leave one message for future generations, what would it be and why?
2. As we read Genesis 26 what stands out to you about God's character?
3. In Genesis 26, how does God demonstrate His faithfulness to Isaac, and how does this relate to His promises to Abraham?
4. Psalm 119:90 states, "Your faithfulness continues through all generations." How does this verse complement the story in Genesis 26?
5. What challenges did Isaac face, and how did God's faithfulness help him overcome them?
6. Can you share a time when you experienced God's faithfulness in your life, perhaps in a way similar to your parents or grandparents?
7. In what areas of your life do you find it challenging to trust in God's faithfulness?
8. How does knowing about God's faithfulness to past generations impact your faith today?

### **Family Questions**

1. *If you could tell something important to kids in the future, what would you say? Why?*
2. *What hard things happened to Isaac in Genesis 26? How did God help him get through these hard times?*
3. *Can you remember a time when God helped you, maybe in a way like He helped your mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa?*
4. *When you hear about how God helped people long ago, how does it make you feel about trusting God now?*

# genesis

## DIG DEEPER questions

### September 22: Actions & Words, Genesis 27, Genesis 28:1-9

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you were tempted to deceive someone for personal gain?
2. Without sharing specifics, how did that experience make you feel?
3. How would you describe the family dynamics portrayed in these chapters?
4. In Genesis 27, what roles do Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau play in the deception that takes place?
5. How does Jacob's deception in Genesis 27 affect the relationships within his family?
6. In Genesis 28:1-5, how does Isaac's blessing for Jacob differ from the one he initially intended to give?
7. Jacob's deception had far-reaching consequences. Can you think of a time when a lie or deception, even a small one, had unexpected repercussions in your life?
8. Rebekah played a significant role in orchestrating the deception. How do you think we should respond when someone close to us encourages us to be dishonest?
9. Despite Jacob's deception, God still used him in His plan. How does this impact your understanding of God's grace and our human failures?

#### **Family Questions**

1. *Have you ever wanted to tell a lie to get something you wanted? How did it make you feel inside?*
2. *After Jacob tricks his family in Genesis 27, how does it change the way they feel about each other?*
3. *Can you think of a time when you told a lie, even a small one, and it caused bigger problems than you expected?*
4. *Rebekah helped Jacob trick Isaac. What would you do if someone you love asked you to tell a lie?*
5. *Even though Jacob did something wrong, God still had a plan for him. What does this tell you about how God treats us when we make mistakes?*

# genesis

A desert landscape at sunset with camels and a water hole. The word "genesis" is written in large white letters across the top left. The background is a photograph of a desert with camels and a water hole. The right side of the image is a dark blue/black triangle with the text "DIG DEEPER questions" in orange and white.

## DIG DEEPER questions

### September 29: Earth & Heaven, Genesis 28:10-22

1. If you could choose any place in the world to have a powerful encounter with God, where would it be and why?
2. After reading Genesis 28:10-22, what aspects of Jacob's encounter with God stand out to you the most?
3. How would you describe Jacob's emotional state before and after his encounter?
4. Jacob calls the place where he had this encounter "Bethel," which means "house of God." What significance does this name hold in the context of the story?
5. How does Jacob's response to God's presence (Genesis 28:16-22) demonstrate elements of worship?
6. Have you ever had a unexpected encounter with God? How did it impact your faith and your view of worship?
7. Jacob set up a stone pillar as a memorial of his encounter with God. What practices or symbols help you remember and celebrate significant moments in your spiritual journey?

#### **Family Questions**

1. *If you could meet God anywhere in the world, where would you pick? Why?*
2. *How do you think Jacob felt before he saw God? How about after?*
3. *After Jacob meets God, he does some things to show he's thankful and wants to follow God. What are these things?*
4. *Have you ever felt close to God when you weren't expecting it? How did it make you feel about God?*
5. *Jacob put up a special rock to help him remember meeting God. Do you have any special things or ways to remember times when you felt close to God?*

# genesis

## DIG DEEPER questions

### October 6: Marriages & Children, Genesis 29-30:24

1. How would you describe Jacob's patience (or lack thereof) throughout this passage?
2. In Genesis 29:20, we read, "So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her." What does this verse reveal about the relationship between love and patience?
3. How did Laban's deception (Gen. 29:23-25) test Jacob's patience? How did Jacob respond?
4. In what ways did the competition between Rachel and Leah (Gen. 30:1-24) demonstrate impatience?
5. What were the consequences of their actions?
6. Jacob waited seven years to marry Rachel, only to be deceived and have to wait another seven years. Have you ever experienced a time when your patience was tested by unfair circumstances? How did you handle it?
7. Rachel's impatience led her to give her maidservant to Jacob (Gen. 30:3-4). When have you been tempted to take matters into your own hands instead of waiting on God's timing?
8. Throughout this passage, we see characters struggling with comparison and jealousy. How does impatience often fuel these negative emotions in your own life?
9. Identify an area in your life where you're struggling with impatience. What practical steps can you take to cultivate patience in this situation?

#### **Family Questions**

1. *How good was Jacob at waiting for things he wanted?*
2. *Laban tricked Jacob by giving him the wrong wife. How do you think this made Jacob feel?*
3. *Jacob had to wait 14 years to marry Rachel! Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something that wasn't fair? How did you feel?*
4. *In this story, people keep comparing themselves to others and feeling jealous. Does being impatient ever make you feel jealous of others?*
5. *Is there something you're having trouble being patient about right now? What could you do to help yourself wait better?*

# genesis

A desert landscape at sunset with camels and a water hole. The word "genesis" is written in large white letters across the top left. The background shows a sunset over a desert with several camels standing near a small water hole. The right side of the image is a dark blue/black triangle containing the text "DIG DEEPER questions".

## DIG DEEPER questions

### October 13: Strong & Weak, Genesis 30:25-43

1. What stood out to you in Genesis 30:25-43? Were there any actions or attitudes that surprised you?
2. How would you describe the relationship between Jacob and Laban based on this passage?
3. How did Jacob manipulate the breeding of the flocks in Genesis 30:37-42? What was his motivation?
4. What does Genesis 30:43 tell us about the outcome of Jacob's actions?
5. Can you think of a time when you were tempted to manipulate a situation for your own benefit? How did you handle it?
6. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to put others before yourself?
7. How do you think pride affects our relationships with others and with God?
8. This week, try to identify one area where you tend to be self-centered. What's one practical step you can take to be more considerate of others in that area?

#### **Family Questions**

1. How do you think Jacob and Laban felt about each other in this story?
2. How did Jacob try to get more spotted and striped animals in Genesis 30:37-42? Why did he want to do this?
3. What happened to Jacob at the end of the story in Genesis 30:43?
4. Has there been a time when you wanted to trick someone to get something you wanted? What did you do?
5. When is it hard for you to think about other people instead of just yourself?
6. This week, can you think of one way you usually only think about yourself? What's one small thing you could do to think more about others instead?



# genesis

## DIG DEEPER questions

### October 20: Cheating & Lying, Genesis 31

1. If you could choose any fictional family to be a part of, which would it be and why?
2. As we read through Genesis 31, what aspects of Jacob and Laban's relationship stood out to you?
3. What emotions or tensions did you notice between the characters in this chapter?
4. What accusations does Laban make against Jacob when he catches up with him (Gen. 31:26-30)? How does Jacob respond (Gen. 31:31-32)?
5. Describe the agreement Jacob and Laban make at the end of the chapter (Gen. 31:44-54). What is the significance of this covenant?
6. Jacob and Laban's relationship was marked by deception and mistrust. Have you ever experienced similar challenges in a family relationship? How did it affect you?
7. In this chapter, we see God working to bring about reconciliation despite human failings. Can you share a time when you've seen God work in a similar way in your own family?
8. Jacob took a significant risk in confronting Laban about their issues (Gen. 31:36-42). What makes confrontation in family relationships difficult? When might it be necessary?
9. This week, identify one family relationship that needs attention. What is one practical step you can take towards reconciliation or improving communication in that relationship?

#### Family Questions

1. If you could be part of any make-believe family from a story or movie, which one would you choose? Why?
2. In the story from Genesis 31, what did you notice about how Jacob and Laban treat each other?
3. How do you think the people in this story were feeling? Did anyone seem upset or angry?
4. At the end of the story, Jacob and Laban make a promise to each other. What do they promise? Why is this important?
5. Jacob and Laban often tricked each other and didn't trust each other. Has anyone in your family ever had trouble getting along like this? How did it make you feel?
6. Even though people in this story made mistakes, God helped them fix things. Have you ever seen God help your family fix a problem?
7. Jacob had to be brave to tell Laban he was upset. When is it hard to tell someone in your family that you're upset? When might you need to do it anyway?
8. This week, think of someone in your family you want to get along with better. What's one small thing you could do to be nicer to them or talk to them more?

# genesis

## DIG DEEPER questions

### October 27: Guilt & Gifts, Genesis 32:1-21

1. If you could choose to be fearless in one area of your life, what would it be and why?
2. After reading Genesis 32:1-21, what stood out to you most about Jacob's situation? How would you describe Jacob's emotional state in this passage?
3. In Genesis 32:6-8, how does Jacob react when he hears Esau is coming to meet him with 400 men?
4. What strategies does Jacob employ to deal with his fear of Esau in Genesis 32:7-21?
5. How does Jacob's prayer in Genesis 32:9-12 reflect both his fear and his faith?
6. Can you relate to Jacob's fear of facing someone from his past? How does this story resonate with your own experiences?
7. In what ways do you tend to react when faced with fear? Do you see any similarities between your responses and Jacob's?
8. Jacob reminded God of His promises in his prayer (Genesis 32:9-12). How might recalling God's promises help us when we're afraid?
9. What can we learn from Jacob's example about balancing practical action and spiritual dependence when facing our fears?
10. This week, identify a fear you're currently facing. Following Jacob's example, write out a prayer that both honestly expresses your fear and claims God's promises.

### **Family Questions**

1. *If you could be really brave about one thing in your life, what would it be? Why?*
2. *How do you think Jacob was feeling in this story?*
3. *What different things does Jacob do to try and make Esau less angry with him?*
4. *In Jacob's prayer (Genesis 32:9-12), how does he show that he's scared but also trusts God?*
5. *When you feel scared, what do you usually do? Is it like what Jacob did?*
6. *Jacob reminded God about His promises when he prayed. How might remembering God's promises help us when we're scared?*
7. *This week, think of something that scares you. Can you write a prayer like Jacob did, telling God you're scared but also that you trust Him?*

# genesis

A photograph of a desert landscape at sunset. In the foreground, a small pool of water reflects the sky. Several camels are gathered around the water, some drinking. The background shows rolling sand dunes under a warm, orange and yellow sky. The word "genesis" is written in large, white, lowercase letters across the top left of the image.

## DIG DEEPER questions

### November 3: Alone & Afraid, Genesis 32:22-32

1. After reading Genesis 32:22-32, what details or moments in this passage stood out to you the most?
2. How would you describe Jacob's emotional state throughout this encounter?
3. In Genesis 32:24-25, we read about Jacob wrestling with a man. Who do you think this mysterious figure was, and why?
4. Why do you think Jacob refused to let go until he received a blessing (Genesis 32:26)?
5. What significance do you see in Jacob's name being changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28)?
6. Have you ever felt like you were "wrestling with God" over an issue in your life? How did that experience affect your faith?
7. Jacob walked away from this encounter with a limp (Genesis 32:31). In what ways can our struggles with God leave lasting impacts on our lives?
8. How does Jacob's persistence in seeking a blessing challenge or inspire your approach to prayer?
9. This week, identify an area in your life where you feel you're struggling with God. Commit to spending focused time in prayer about this issue, being honest with God about your feelings and desires.

### **Family Questions**

1. How do you think Jacob was feeling during this strange meeting?
2. Jacob wouldn't let go until he got a blessing. Why do you think he wanted a blessing so much?
3. In the story, Jacob's name gets changed to Israel. Why do you think this was important?  
*Have you ever felt like you were "wrestling" or struggling with God about something? How did it make you feel?*
4. Jacob didn't give up until he got a blessing. Does this make you want to pray differently?
5. This week, think about something you're having a hard time with. Can you talk to God about it, telling Him exactly how you feel?



# genesis



## DIG DEEPER questions

### November 10: Running & Weeping; Genesis 33:1-20

1. If you could erase one mistake from your past, what would it be and why?
2. How would you describe the emotions and body language of Jacob and Esau during their reunion?
3. In Genesis 33:4, we read, "But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept." What does this reaction tell us about Esau's state of mind?
4. How does Jacob's attitude towards Esau in this passage differ from his earlier interactions with his brother?
5. Jacob and Esau had a long history of conflict. Can you relate to their situation? Have you ever experienced a broken relationship that seemed beyond repair?
6. Forgiveness often requires vulnerability. How does Jacob demonstrate vulnerability in this passage, and how might this apply to our own lives?
7. Esau's forgiveness seems immediate and complete. Have you ever experienced or witnessed such a dramatic act of forgiveness? How did it impact those involved?
8. This week, identify a relationship in your life that needs reconciliation. What is one step you can take towards healing that relationship?

#### **Family Questions**

1. *If you could make one mistake you made go away, which one would it be? Why?*
2. *The story says Esau ran to Jacob, hugged him, and they both cried. What do you think this tells us about how Esau was feeling?*
3. *Jacob and Esau fought a lot in the past. Have you ever had a big fight with someone and thought you might never be friends again?*
4. *Forgiving someone can be scary sometimes. How does Jacob show he's brave in this story? How can we be brave like that?*
5. *This week, think about someone you're not getting along with. What's one small thing you could do to try and be friends again?*

# genesis

## DIG DEEPER questions

### November 17: Lust & Blood; Genesis 34-35:1-8

Parents: this week's passage contains sensitive material and situations.

1. As we read Genesis 34-35:1-8, what details or events stood out to you the most? What emotions did you experience while reading this passage?
2. How did Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi, respond to the injustice done to their sister?
3. In Genesis 35:1-5, how does God instruct Jacob to respond after these events?
4. What might be the significance of God telling Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar there?
5. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt tempted to retaliate against an injustice? How did you handle it?
6. The concept that "two wrongs don't make a right" is often easier said than done. Why do you think it's so challenging to respond to injustice without seeking revenge?
7. In what ways can seeking revenge or retaliation actually perpetuate a cycle of injustice? How do you think God's instruction to Jacob in Genesis 35:1 relates to dealing with injustice in our own lives?

#### **Family Questions**

1. *Have you ever been in a situation where something bad was done to someone you know? How did that make you feel?*
2. *Have you ever heard the saying that "two wrongs don't make a right?" What does that mean?*
3. *Why is seeking revenge against another person wrong? What do you think God wants us to do instead?*

# genesis

A desert landscape at sunset with camels and a water well. The word "genesis" is written in large white letters across the top left. The background is a dark blue and black diagonal split.

## DIG DEEPER questions

### November 24: Name & Title; Genesis 35:9-29, Genesis 36

1. If you could choose a new name for yourself, what would it be and why?
2. In Genesis 35:10, God changes Jacob's name to Israel. What significance do you think this name change had?
3. How does God describe Himself to Jacob in Genesis 35:11? What promises does He make?
4. Genesis 36 provides a detailed genealogy of Esau's descendants. Why do you think this information was included in the Bible?
5. How does the story of Jacob/Israel's family in Genesis 35 contrast with the account of Esau's family in Genesis 36?
6. God affirms Jacob's new identity as Israel. How has your identity in Christ changed how you view yourself?
7. Jacob set up a stone pillar and poured out a drink offering in response to God's promises (Gen. 35:14). How do you typically respond when God speaks to you or reaffirms His promises?
8. Esau's descendants became great leaders and Kings (Gen. 36:31-43). How do you balance your identity as a child of God with your roles and achievements in the world?
9. This week, spend time reflecting on your identity in Christ. Write down three ways this identity should impact your daily life.

### **Family Questions**

1. *Does your name have any special meaning? Ask your parents why they gave you your name.*
2. *In the Bible, people's names had special meanings that told something about themselves. If God were to give you a name or describe you, what do you think He would say?*
3. *See if you can find places in the Bible where God describes how He feels about those who follow Him. Try Ephesians 1:3-8, 1 Peter 2:9, Luke 18:16.*