



## JACOB'S JOURNEY

If you don't currently do so, we suggest keeping a journal during this series describing the life of Jacob. Keep the following questions in mind each week as you study.

- o What happens in Jacob's life?
- o What are the circumstances surrounding him?
- o How does he respond to situations? What choices does he make?
- o What stands out about Jacob's character?
- o Where does God show up?
- o What other thoughts do you have?

**You may find an overview of Jacob's life at the Welcome Center or online at [www.jacobsweltec.org](http://www.jacobsweltec.org).**

### Days 1 & 2 — READ GENESIS 25:21-26

#### WHO IS JACOB?

Note: Jacob means "he takes by the heel" with the derived meaning "to supplant, deceive, attack from the rear."

Consider the questions highlighted above in relation to this scripture.

#### WHAT SHAPES OUR JOURNEY?

##### *God's plan*

- o Looking back on your own life, where do you see God's hand in caring for and shaping who you are?

##### *The family we are part of*

- o What was your childhood like?
- o What was your role in your family?
- o How were you affected?

##### *The choices other people make*

- o What are some of the choices others around you have made that have had a major impact on your life?

##### *The choices we make*

- o What are some of the big choices that you've made in your life that have shaped who you are today?
- o What have you focused on?

### Day 3 — READ GENESIS 25:27-28

#### WHERE WE FIND OUR MASKS

What masks do you see Jacob putting on in his family and why do you think he did that? Can you relate to his need to hide his true self? Have you put on masks as well? What sort of masks have you worn? Why did you choose to hide yourself? Have you ever taken off your masks? If so, would you say that it was a messy process?

### Days 4 & 5 — READ GENESIS 25:29-34

#### THE GAMES WE PLAY

Has there ever been anything you've wanted so bad that you're willing to go against your better judgment to get it? In turn, have you ever taken advantage of someone else in need to get what you want? Have you ever treated something valuable with disdain? Who has been of influence in your life? Who have you given power over your life? Who have you tried to control?

#### THE HULA HOOP

Imagine that you're standing in a hula hoop. The hula hoop represents the things in your life in which you have control, influence, choice, and responsibility. This is your space. Everything outside of this space represents God's sovereignty, His rule, His choices, His responsibility, His control. Is this a new way to think about your life? What happens when you try to step outside of your hula hoop? How can this new picture of control and influence change the way you interact with others? How does this picture change how you relate with God?

#### NEXT STEPS

- o Learn Jacob's Story — Read Genesis 12 - 50
- o Learn Your Story — Recommended Readings
  - Till We Have Faces* by CS Lewis
  - To Be Told: Know Your Story, Shape Your Future* by Dan B. Allendar
  - Boundaries* by Henry Cloud
  - Good & Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith
- o Share Your Story — Groups
- o Enter Jesus' Story