



Part 1 - October 1, 2017

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### Patriarchs

- Abraham - God begins his plan to repair the world
- Isaac - contributes in a role with less recognition
- Jacob - incredibly important character in the Hebrew narrative

### Rebekah

- jostled together - “crush” is actually violent imagery
- despair and difficulty will mark her relationship with Jacob
- inquires of the Lord - God will speak, even with those who don’t “know how” to approach him

### Expectations

- primogenitor - family carried on through eldest son, but the story of God often subverts this expectation

### Names

- God will travel with you

## Read - Genesis 25:21-26

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your middle name? Is there any meaning behind why your names were chosen for you?
2. Was there anything confusing or troubling in the teaching this week?
3. Does your family have a history of expectations - similar to *primogenitor* - that have either helped or hurt your family relationships? In what ways?
4. Did anything that was said make you think differently about God or yourself?
5. When you think about God’s promise (to both Jacob and to us) to *travel with us*, are there seasons in your life where you can recognize this clearly? Or seasons where it seemed like this was not true?

## **BENEDICTION/PRAYER:**

God,  
we come to you ready to learn today.  
Ready to be transported by your word back into a world that is very different from ours. A world shaped by different customs and traditions, different norms and practices, and yet a world inhabited by human beings made in your image;

humans who bear the same potential for good and beauty and art and compassion that we do.  
But also humans who possess the same tendency toward greed and selfishness and grasping we sometimes fall prey to.

And so we ask that as we dive into this story, as we attempt to place ourselves at the centre of these tales, we ask that we would be able to engage our imagination - and our intellect.

We also ask that you would bring your spirit to bear in our reading, all so that new facets and images and truths would jump out of the page and into our experience of faith.

We ask that you would be present to us today, that we might begin to see ourselves not just for who we have been, but for all the ways you invite us forward, forgiving and healing and welcoming us

back - to you - and even into renewed relationship with those we may have hurt.

We pray that these stories might become catalysts for change, and that wherever we have started today, we might leave one step closer to your light.

Amen.