

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord, Father, God, help us today not as spectators but as people ready to wrestle honestly with You, to be corrected, encouraged, and changed. Expose any ways we've treated teammates like opponents, or run from hard conversations, and give us courage to pursue reconciliation where You prompt us. As we see Your faithfulness to Jacob in all his weakness, convince our hearts again that our story is really about Your grace—and show each of us a clear next step of obedience to take this week.

ICE BREAKER

Pastor Aaron shared about the impact of the faithfulness of three men (Brian, Charlie and John) who led his student life group every week for five years. Who are three people in your life who have modeled this type of faithfulness and impacted your story?

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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In this week's message, we're joined by Aaron Crull, Northview's Family Ministry Pastor. He invites us to wrestle with a challenging question: What do we do with the life of a biblical hero whose story is filled with deception, favoritism, and constant running away? The sermon traces three key moments in Jacob's life—his birth, the stolen blessing, and his wrestling match with God. Together, these scenes don't highlight human greatness but reveal a God who is patient, loving, and faithful to His promises. Though Jacob repeatedly deceives, lies, and runs, God still chooses him, renames him Israel, and builds through him the nation from which the Messiah would come. The central theological truth is that salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works. Just as Jacob's name is found among the patriarchs solely because God promised it would be there, our names are written in the Book of Life not because of our merit, but because of God's grace through Jesus Christ. Ultimately, the sermon calls believers to stop running from God and instead wrestle with Him; to stop treating God-given teammates—such as spouses or siblings—as opponents; and to remember that the gospel is not about our performance, but about God's unwavering faithfulness.

READ SCRIPTURE

**GENESIS 25:19-34; 27:1-46; 32:22-32 (REVIEW JACOB'S STORY)
ROMANS 9:10-12; 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10; EPHESIANS 2:8-10**

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) The sermon highlighted some family issues in our story: divided parenting, favoritism, and sibling rivalry. Do any of these resonate more with your own experience, either growing up or in your current family situation?

2) If your life story were written like Jacob's, with all its best and worst moments exposed, what would it reveal about God's faithfulness rather than your own merit? How does the picture of God patiently pursuing a deceiver and runaway like Jacob shape how you feel about God's posture toward you when you've had weak moments, failed or run from Him?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

3) The sermon emphasized that God often works through unexpected people (Jacob the younger sibling and deceiver) so that He gets the glory (1 Corinthians 1:26–31). How does this clarify your understanding of why God chooses and uses certain people in Scripture?

4) How does Romans 9:10–12 deepen or challenge your understanding of election and grace when you set it alongside Jacob’s very flawed life in Genesis 25–35?

5) In what ways does Jacob’s wrestling with God at Peniel and receiving the name “Israel” (“wrestles with God”) help you better understand the later story of the nation of Israel’s ongoing struggle with God?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

6) Is there a relationship in your life right now where you’ve subtly shifted from viewing someone as a teammate to viewing them as an opponent? Pastor Aaron challenged us to ask: “As much as it depends on me, have I done everything I can to reconcile the relationship?” If someone comes to mind, what has stopped you from taking a step toward reconciliation?

7) Jacob’s pattern was to run from conflict—until God cornered him and he finally wrestled instead of fleeing. Where are you currently “running,” and what would it look like in practice to “wrestle with God” about that issue in prayer or conversation with a trusted believer this week?

8) The sermon emphasized that Christian living flows from gratitude, not works or earning favor. Practically speaking, how can you shift this week from “earning mode” (hamster wheel or shame spiral) to gratitude-driven obedience?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to take a next step in practical application?

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

Serve Finder - This month we’ve been emphasizing that serving is a key part of our growth, personal discipleship, and journey with Jesus. At Northview, we encourage everyone to join a team so they can use their gifts and talents consistently and meaningfully. Sign up for a Test Drive to discover where you can make the most impact—at Northview, with one of our local mission partners, or even globally on a Go Trip!