

Write down the names of people with whom you are struggling to make peace:

Talk to God about the people in your life you're struggling to make peace with. Thank Him that He made peace with you through Jesus and pray that you'll be willing to share His peace with others in your life.

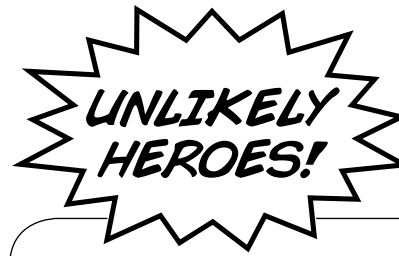
Friday

Please read Genesis 48:2–5, 8–10 & 49:1. On his deathbed, Jacob finally blesses each one of his sons and grandsons, with the exception of the unrepentant murderers Simeon and Levi (although it's interesting to note that God uses their descendants in mighty ways, despite their father's sins!). In his words of blessing Jacob even includes the children of women who were not even his wives! In other words, Jacob has finally learned the benefits of extending a blessing to not only the firstborn, but to his entire clan. How can you bless your own children or friends today with words and deeds?

Ask God to show you many ways today — perhaps even each hour! — where you could speak and create blessing into the lives of those around you. Thank Him for blessing you richly through Jesus Christ!

Saturday

Please review the memory verse for this week and spend some time in prayer rejoicing in God's grace. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will grow and strengthen our church during these summer months.



WEEK 6

Jacob

Why Do I Work for What God Wants to Give?

July 17 & 18, 2010 • René Schlaepfer

Jacob: " _____, _____ "

Israel: " _____ "

The LORD said to Rebecca, "...the older will serve the younger." *Genesis 25:23*

Three Questions From Jacob's Story:

**1. Am I focused on my _____ father's blessing
...or my _____ Father's blessing?**

Isaac loved Esau ...but Rebekah loved Jacob. *Genesis 25:28*

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. *2 Cor. 6:18*

**2. Am I making _____ with God
...or enjoying _____ from God?**

[The LORD] said: "...I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying... All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." *Genesis 28:13–15*

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God and this stone ...will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth." *Genesis 28:20–22*

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. *2 Corinthians 1:20*

**3. Am I _____ with God
...or _____ from God?**

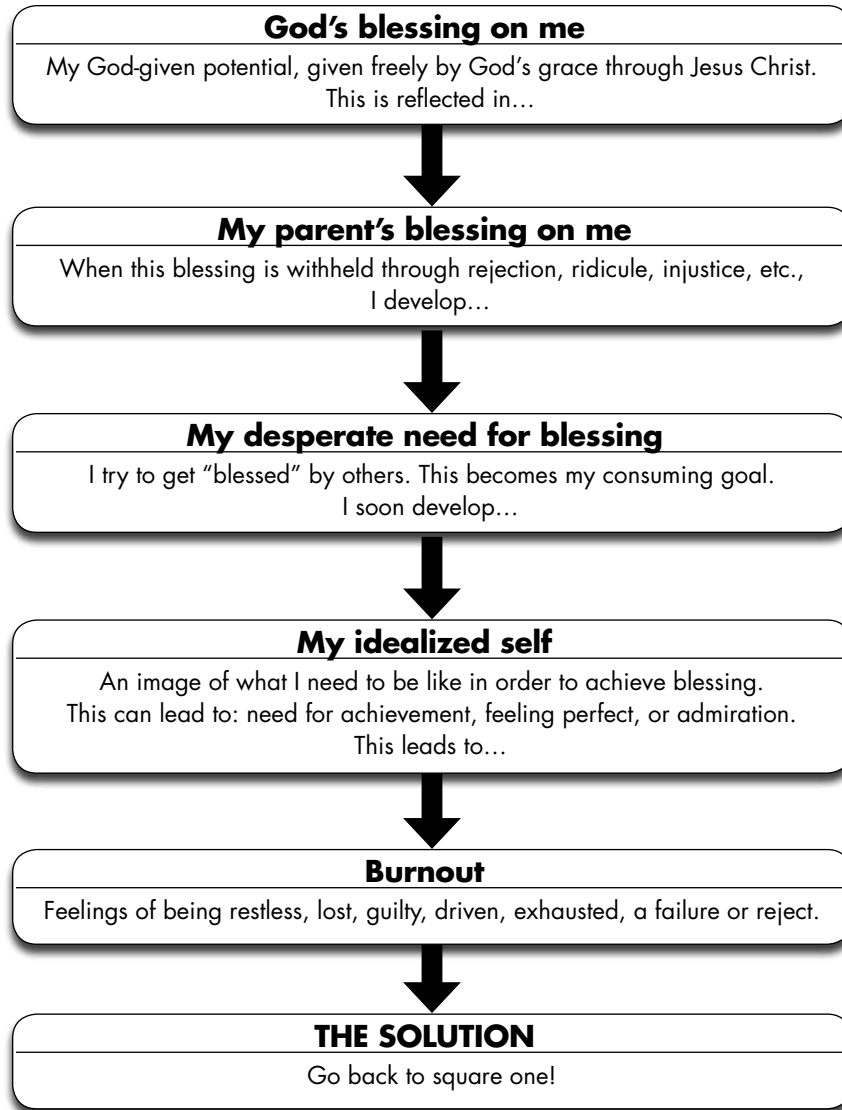
Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." *Genesis 32:26*

[God] has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. *Ephesians 1:3*

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. *Hebrews 11:21*

**Will you spend your years trying to _____ a life,
or will you _____ a life?**

Why we work so hard for what God wants to give



Resources

Hustling God Craig Barnes

The Schemer and The Dreamer Luis Palau

Healing Grace David Seamands

Monday

Please read over the notes and the chart from this past weekend. Which point stood out for you? Why?

Please read Galatians 3:1–3. How does Paul's point about **receiving** God's grace vs. **achieving** God's grace relate to the story of Jacob?

Thank God today for his grace towards you. Ask God to help you learn the lessons he wants you to learn from Jacob's life.

Tuesday

Please read Genesis 27. In this dramatic account, what does Jacob steal from his father?

He apparently didn't need to do this, since God had already stated he would inherit the blessing. In what ways do you sometimes try to earn what God gives freely?

How does this rob you of joy?

Ask God today to help you relax in His grace, freely given through Jesus! Rejoice in His grace today!

Wednesday

Please read Genesis 28:10–22. Jacob tries, in many ways, to climb his way to God's blessing through his schemes. What does the Lord say to Jacob in these verses?

According to God, what does Jacob have to do to inherit all these promises?

Yet even after this vision, does Jacob trust God completely? What is his response in verses 20–21? Why do you think Jacob responds this way?

What does Ephesians 1:3 say about **your** blessings?

Ask God to help you relax in His grace today! Thank Him for the mercies poured on you through Jesus Christ!

Thursday

Please read Genesis 32:1–21 & 33:1–4. Why do you think Jacob was terrified of Esau? What happened?

Have you ever been afraid to talk to someone with whom you've had a tense relationship, only to discover they were more than willing to reconcile? What happened?



Memory Verse

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go... I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:15 (NIV)