

# #My Jubilee Bible

## Reflection/Discussion Guide: Genesis 25-42; Psalm 8-14

Jubilee wants to grow more mature in Christ and closer to one another. Because these desires are bound tightly together, we want to provide you with a resource to both encourage you to consider what you are reading on a personal level and to go into Community Group discussions prepared to build up and encourage one another.

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Questions for personal reflection
3. Questions for group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal reflection at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: the people, relationships and events described in the section.

### Overview of Genesis 25-42

Part of what makes the Bible such a believable and trustworthy document is that even the people God chooses to be His source of blessing to the world are flawed and far from perfect. Sin has left its black indelible mark on humanity and it continues to show up in human relationships. The Bible does not attempt to hide some of the worst and most grievous acts.

God continues to renew covenant with Abraham's descendents through some very dark moments. His determination to bless the whole world through this one man and his family moves forward with each successive generation; even though things small, fragile and sometimes when those people act very, very bad. God stays faithful to his promise even when we, his people, do not.

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## Questions for Personal Reflection

### Chapters 25-26 Isaac

- God's story continues, but characters change. Who does God's story begin to focus on? (Ch. 25)
- How is God faithfully fulfilling his promises? To Ishmael? To Isaac?
- How did Rebekah demonstrate her faith in God? (25:19-23)
- What is it about Isaac and Rebekah's relationship that inspires you? (25:21-22)

### Chapters 27-28 Jacob and Esau

- What are some words or phrases you would use to describe Jacob & Esau's relationship?
- What surprises you about God's choice of Jacob to bless and be a blessing?
- Jacob built a pillar of remembrance so he would not forget God's faithfulness to him. What are some pillars in your life that help you remember God's faithfulness?

### Chapters 29-31 Jacob and Laban

- What are some ways that God uses a hard man (Laban) in Jacob's life to fulfill His purpose for Jacob?
- How can you relate to the hardship that Jacob experiences?
- How have you seen God fulfill His purpose in you by using difficult relationships?

### Chapters 32-36 Jacob Returns to Canaan

- What challenges do Jacob's family face on the way to Canaan?
- Why does it seem God confirmed his covenant with Jacob in Genesis 35?
- God remained faithful to his covenant through this challenging family. How does that affect your confidence in God's ability to carry out his plans through imperfect people?

### Chapters 37-38 Joseph and His Brothers

- What was the relationship between Joseph and his brothers like?
- How did Joseph's dreams make his relationships more difficult?
- Do you relate more to Joseph, or his brothers?
- How do you handle life when your dreams seem to be put on hold?

### Chapters 39-42 Joseph in Egypt

- What are some of the temptations Joseph faces when he gets to Egypt?
- How does he handle those temptations?
- Why does it seem that Pharaoh puts Joseph in command of Egypt's resources?
- How do you relate to Joseph's faithfulness in the face of opposition?
  - What temptations are you facing right now?
  - How does Joseph's example help you trust God in the midst of it?

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## CG Discussion Guide

- Where do you seem to be getting stuck in regard to reading the Bible?
- How can we encourage one another?

Read Genesis 26:23-25 and 28:10-15, 22 and 35:11-14

- What does each of these passages communicate about God's plans to bless the whole earth through Abraham's seed?
  - What do they have in common?
  - What is unique about each one?
- What do Isaac and Jacob do in response to God's covenant renewal?
  - Why do these responses seem significant?
  - Jacob erected monuments, or drove a stake in the ground during transitional moments in his journey. These transitions are big, monumental events that change the way we are living.
    - What are some moments in life that have dramatically changed the way you approach life?
    - What are some circumstances that made you feel you had to drive a stake in the ground?
    - What are some reasons it might help you to go back and revisit those moments?
- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Communion is a big pillar of remembrance for the church, to celebrate Jesus' covenant with us.
- How is communion a pillar for you?

Let's celebrate communion this evening!

Supplies: red grape juice and pita (unleavened bread)

Community Group leader say a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the bread and cup.

Tear the bread and distribute to the group

Instruct members to dip the bread in the cup and pass it to the next person.

Close the moment with a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over the group

*Hebrews 13:20, "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

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