

Chapter 4 - Study Guide -The Path

Genesis 25:29-34

Genesis 27:1-4, 18-40

Genesis 28:12-22

Genesis 32:24-31

Genesis 37:3-8 37:17b-28

Genesis 41:14-44, 45b

Genesis 45:1-15

Genesis 50:15-22, 24, 26

Reflective Questions

- What was surprising (or interesting or exciting) to you in this week's chapter?
- What challenges you about this week's story?
- Was there anything that you found confusing from this week's chapter?
- Where does this story connect with your life? Where do you hear God speaking in this story to you as an individual? Where is God speaking to us as a community?
- Jacob, who inherits God's promise to Abraham and becomes Israel, the one after whom God's faithful people is named, is not always an admirable character. A liar and a trickster, Jacob is an unlikely exemplar of faith. What might we learn from his inclusion in God's story?
- After his dream at Bethel, Jacob says, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" Where are some of the places that you feel God's presence most clearly? Have you ever experienced God's presence in a particularly unlikely place? What was that like?
- One of the pivotal moments in Jacob's life is when he wrestles with the man at Penuel. After that moment, Jacob believes that he has seen God face to face. How is wrestling a good metaphor for the life of faith? What other metaphors help describe your relationship with God?
- Joseph says to his brothers that God used for good what they had intended for harm. What does this tell us about how God works in Joseph's life? What might it say about the presence of God in our lives?
- Joseph's journey with God involves a lot of ups and downs, but Joseph sees God present with him at all times. What are some of the high points and low points in your journey with God? How do you see God present in those moments?
- What connections did you hear between Jacob and Joseph's stories and the stories from previous weeks?