



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JUNE 9, 2024 | SHADOW MEN

WARM-UP QUESTION

What do you know about Jacob from the Old Testament?

This week, we will focus on Jacob, whose life unfolds in the book of Genesis. Jacob, later renamed Israel, became the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jesus himself is a descendant of Jacob's lineage.

DISCUSS

Read [Genesis 25:21-34](#)

- What do you notice about verse 23? How would the prophecy at the end of the verse be counter-cultural?
- Compare Jacob and Esau. What do you notice about them? What is significant about their birth stories? What is that foreshadowing?
- Does scripture ever say that one brother is more masculine than the other? Why does that matter to us?
- Read verses 29-34 again. What stands out to you in this story? What do you notice about each brother's personality? How does this story connect to verse 23?
- What does Jacob's determination to secure his birthright tell you about his relationship with God? How have you seen this desire play out in your own life?

Read [Genesis 27:1-41](#)

- Use the POST method to study this passage. The POST method is a form of inductive Bible study, which seeks to answer what the text says, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means today. Once you read through it, walk through each of these steps together:
 - Pray and Prepare: Prayer helps us to focus our hearts and minds. Ask God to help you hear what He's saying and pursue Him. Prepare by watching the Genesis overview video from [The Bible Project](#), or many study Bibles include an overview at the beginning of each book; take time to read that.
 - Observe: This can take many forms! Here are some ideas to get you started:
 - Underline repeated words or phrases
 - Answer the questions who, what, when, where and why
 - Look for cultural and historical ideas
 - Write down your questions
 - Seek Out: Try reading the passage in three translations: NLT, ESV, and The Message. Then after you've spent time with the passage on your own, use resources like commentaries, study Bibles, and other tools to answer your questions and learn more.
 - Take Action: By now, you should be able to answer the first two questions from the inductive study: what does the passage say, and what does it mean?
 - Now it's time to move to application and answer the question, "What do I need to do to obey?"



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Read Genesis 32:22-32

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Right before this passage, Jacob is preparing to see his brother Esau for the first time since stealing his blessing. If you were in this situation, how would you feel? Where do you see those feelings play out in this passage?
- Where do you see God in this Scripture? What difference does He make?
- Do you think Jacob trusts God? Support your answer with evidence from the passages you read today.
- Where do you see examples of God's patience in this passage and throughout Jacob's story? What does that teach you about God's relationship with Jacob? With us?

RESPOND

- Jacob was a broken human, but God fulfilled his prophecies about him. Spend some time reflecting on how God used Jacob's family for his glory. What can you glean from this for your own family and your own story?
- Based on what you just discussed, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is, and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.