

08 DIRECTION & IDENTITY

KEY TEXT: GENESIS 35:1-15

CENTRAL truth

God's presence helps us to live out the identity He gives us. The same God who saved us is the same God who transforms us. Like Jacob, it is by God's presence that we are empowered to live in a way that honors Him. The Lord patiently journeys with us as we obediently throw aside, or reevaluate, anything that keeps us from enjoying Him.

key question

How does God's work in our lives encourage us to leave the sins of our past behind?

After Jacob's wrestling match with the Lord, God gave him a new identity: one who "strived against God." And God called Jacob to live out his new identity as he was given strength and courage by the Lord's presence. When we encounter the Lord, we are not simply transformed and released; we are empowered by God's presence to live out the identity he's given us. It is only by His power that we can leave our past sins behind.

keep in mind

- The concept of idols may seem difficult for some students to grasp. Simply put, any kind of idol worship is choosing to worship the created instead of the Creator. It's a form of rebellion. Though it may not look like carven images of foreign deities in today's world, idolatry can still show up in all sorts of ways. Whether it's relationships, social media, or caring too much about the perceptions of others, the war against idolatry is ongoing. Help students contextualize what this looks like for them.
- This week's teaching covers the death of Deborah. Be mindful of students who may have recently experienced the death of a family member, friend, or loved one and think of ways that you can be an encouragement to those students beyond your time together on Sunday. Ask the Lord to meet them in their grief.

application

How are we able to receive a new identity from God?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Challenge students to identify any areas where they are delighting in the created more than the Creator. Invite them to surrender whatever comes to mind through prayer and to rely on one another for encouragement.

FOR THE LEADER: Many students may believe they are responsible for their own transformation. However, God plays an active role in our transformation when we follow Him. Remind students that while we're invited to participate, it's God who does the heavy lifting!

SPRING
2024