

FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon



Lesson #4 FAVORED BY GOD (Joseph)

Genesis 35:1 – Genesis 37:4



CHILDREN'S STORY - Because I Know Who I AM

(Dismiss young children to Noah's Ark after the Story.)

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

1st Reader Repeats 2x with Congregation

Proverbs 22:1

*"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,
and loving favor rather than silver and gold."*

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

JESUS WANTS ME TO KNOW WHO I AM

SO I WILL FIND HIS PURPOSE AND WALK IN HIS PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION: We learned from the tragedy of Shechem to put off anger before anger turns to rage and consumes us, and to forgive others because God forgives us. God changed Jacob's name to Israel, the Father of Nations" because he prevailed with God. When we receive Jesus for our Savior, God grafts us in to His people Israel so that we too may become the people who prevail with God! gave Himself and His people His name Jesus, Iesous, meaning I AM Savior. Christos means Anointed One, when we become Christians we are the 'Anointed Ones! God gives us His own name to reflect His glory in us. This week we see that Joseph is faithful, even when he is hated and betrayed.

Objects to Bring: *White Robe or Sheet, Frosted Cookie Men & M:&M's*

2. LIFE PARABLE – BECAUSE I KNOW WHO I AM



When you don't know who you are, you are endlessly making and breaking commitments because nothing feels right or seems to fit, because your approval comes from pleasing others. Do you know who you are? Knowing who you are solves many problems, making many decisions unnecessary. Knowing who you are saves a lot of time because it keeps you from struggling between loyalties. If you have not yet chosen the Lord, you may be coming to church one day and dropping into a bar the next, or watching unclean movies one day and reading your Bible the next, or going from one failed relationship to another. But when you know who you are, the decision has already been made to follow God, so you can leave all that confusion behind and simply follow God's plan for your life.

An old movie, "Moonstruck" was about the lives of two families. The parents of the confused bride-to-be in the movie were going through time of a crisis. The wife found out her husband had been unfaithful to her and everyone knew. She was devastated; praying, and wondering what she should do. Of course, as the devil so often arranges, a handsome wealthy man enters the picture who offers her dinner, flattery and himself. As they walk on the street after a lovely dinner, he invites her up to his apartment. He is shocked when she tells him no. When bewildered, and he asks her why not, she replies with finality, "Because I know who I am." She then goes home, asks her husband to his face, "Do you love me?" He says yes. She says, "So stop it!" He says, "OK", and their happy married life continues.

God knows His children make huge mistakes, but He still created you and has wonderful plan for your life! God created in you all the gifts and talents you need to carry out His purpose for you. When you say yes to God and go where He leads you, your life will become more exciting, productive and fulfilling than all the parties, endless relationships and dead-end roads the devil will try to lead you down. **So stop it, and say, "Yes Jesus! I will worship You with my whole heart. I will follow You all of my life and bring You glory by becoming the wonderful person You made me to be!"**

3. JACOB TOLD HIS FAMILY TO TAKE OFF EVERY UNCLEAN THING AND BURY IT UNDER THE TREE.

Genesis 35:2-4 “Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, **Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean,** and change your garments: ³ and let us arise, and go up to Beth-el; **and I will make there an altar unto God,** who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. ⁴ And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and **Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.**”



OUR SINS ARE UNDER THE CROSS

Jacob asked the Lord what to do in the horrific impossible situation at Shechem that had brought such shame upon the people of God. God told Jacob to return to Bethel to build an altar where God had first appeared to Him.

Genesis 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. ”

Psalms 57:1 “Be merciful unto me, O God...for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.”

What should we do when we are faced with the tragic consequences of our own sin? When you find yourself feeling far away from God because of tragic circumstances or foolishness and don't know how to change, find that place in your heart where you first met Jesus. Take off the filthy but comfortable rags of sin that you cling to so tightly, and let them go, so you can be free to surrender yourself completely to God. Bury your sins in His forgiveness, and build an altar of praise! You will find safety in the shelter of God's refreshing, and then He will show you the next step on the path He has set before you.

Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

4. TAKING OFF EVERY UNCLEAN THING TO WALK IN HOLINESS GIVES POWER TO GOD’S PEOPLE.

Genesis 35:5-6 “And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. ⁶ So Jacob came to Luz, which is in the land of Canaan, that is, Beth-el, he and all the people that were with him.”

After cleansing themselves from their idols and all uncleanness, Jacob and his family moved forward in holiness, with the power of God’s Holy Spirit with them, and no enemy dared to touch them! Jesus desires for us to walk with Him in holiness, with His power going before us, so that He may protect us and bless us all the days of our lives.



2 Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and Spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Hebrews 12:14 “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

Luke 1:68;74-75 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for he hath visited and redeemed his people. ⁷² To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant. ⁷³ The oath which he sware to our father Abraham. ⁷⁴ That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear. ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”

Genesis 35:7-8 “And he built there an altar, and called the place El-beth-el: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother...”

And Jacob sets the example for us again, to go to our altar and call upon the name of the Lord, remember His goodness and praise Him!

5. GOD APPEARED AGAIN TO RENEW HIS COVENANT WITH JACOB AND TO GIVE HIM A NEW NAME.

God appeared to Jacob as before, through an angel, and changed Jacob's name to Israel, that means 'prince who prevails with God'.

Genesis 35:9-15 "And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; ¹² and the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land..."



God had changed Abram's name to Abraham and He changed Jacob's name to Israel, because His Holy Spirit in these men and upon them changed them from average men to men of greatness.

Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name."

That Jacob prevailed with God means that Jacob was an overcomer. Jesus desires that we overcome all hardships and temptations so that we will never ever leave Him, like He never ever leaves us, because He loves us! Jesus gives us His new name, Christ, the anointed one: Christians, the anointed ones, to reflect the change from our old weak self to ones who travail and prevail with God, and reflect the greatness of He who loves you!

Revelation 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out, and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

6. ISAAC SAW HIS TWO SONS BECOME TWO NATIONS.

After God changed his name to Israel, He finally got to go home with his sons, and their families, but Rachel when his 12th son, Benjamin was born, and they buried her as they came to Bethlehem.

Genesis 35:16-20 “*And they journeyed from Beth-el; ...and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. ¹⁷ And it came to pass, as her **soul** (Strong’s #5315 from #5314 a prim. root Naphash – **to breath out**), was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Ben-oni: but his father called him Benjamin. ¹⁹ And Rachel died, and was buried in... Beth-lehem. ²⁰ And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel’s grave unto this day.”*



RACHEL'S TOMB 1912

²¹And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar. ²² Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, & Asher: these are the sons of Jacob... born to him in Padan-aram.”

Israel’s mother had died but his father Isaac, now 180 years old, was still living and Jacob got to see his father before he died. Isaac lived near Esau and his grandsons, and what a reunion that he got to see son again, and with his own eyes see his grandchildren, and see that God had birthed these two nations, just as He had promised!



Genesis 35:27-29 “*And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. ²⁸ And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years. ²⁹ And Isaac gave up the **ghost** (Strong’s #1478 Gava – **to breath out**), and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

7. THE LAND COULD NOT SUPPORT TWO NATIONS SO ESAU TOOK HIS FAMILY TO LIVE IN SEIR.

Genesis 37:1 “And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.”

Esau traveled back to Mount Seir and his sons became the Edomites.



Genesis 36:1-43 “Now these are the generations of Esau, who is the father of the Edomites in mount Seir: ¹⁰ these are the names of Esau’s sons; Eliphaz,... Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, Korah,... These were dukes of the sons of Esau: duke Teman, duke Omar, duke Zepho, duke Kenaz, ¹⁶ duke Korah, duke Gatam, duke Amalek, duke Nahath, duke Zerah, duke Shammah, duke Mizzah, duke Jeush, duke Jaalam, duke Korah: ¹⁹ These are the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these are their dukes.”

“The region of southern Jordan below the Zered River (modern Wadi Hasa) includes the biblical lands of Midian, Edom, Paran and Seir, or Mount Seir, are known for their pasture lands, mineral-rich mountains, strategic communication routes, and expansive deserts. The excavated 7th century BC remains of the town of Busayra, are those of ancient Bozrah, an Edomite capital city.... Mount Seir was named for Seir the Horite who lived there. His descendants will intermarry with the descendants of Esau who is called Edom, and they become known as the Edomites.”



Malachi 1:2-3 “I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob’s brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob, ³ and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.”

To this day, for the sins of the sons of Esau that grew more and more wicked, the land of Seir is abandoned, just as God said it would be.

8. JOSEPH WAS CHOSEN BY GOD AND BY HIS FATHER, AND FAVORED BECAUSE OF HIS FAITHFULNESS.



Genesis 37:2-4 “....Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren...and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. ⁴ And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him”

At first glance some might think that Joseph was a tattle-tale, but we know from the character shown by Joseph in every future circumstance in his life that he was not. First remember the setting: When Joseph's brothers deceived the men of Shechem, using the sign for entering into the salvation covenant with God, circumcision, as just a cruel hoax, they showed their wicked cruel character and contempt for God, and brought shame upon the whole family of God in the slaughter at Shechem. Reuben also showed contempt for God by sleeping with the mother of two of his brothers! The purpose of Israel in the land was to be a witness for the holiness of God! Joseph was the only son of Israel who had shown character worthy of being called a chosen son of the living God. Joseph reporting to Israel was his assignment so that no more shame would come upon the family of God in the unbelieving land of Canaan. God calls us to be a standard of holiness, in a world that sees wickedness as being normal.

1 Peter 2:9-10 "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

Joseph is a picture of the people of God, whose purpose is to be like Jesus, to shine light in dark places, to be a standard of holiness, and to warn God's people of the wrath to come. Jesus chose you as His very own and loves you like Jacob loved Joseph, and covers you with His own beautiful robe of righteousness.

9. JESUS CLOTHES ME IN GARMENTS OF SALVATION, AND COVERS ME WITH HIS ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

1 John 4:7&19 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loveth is born of God and knoweth God. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us."

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father Israel loved Joseph more than all of them, they hated him and couldn't speak to him without being spiteful or rude, but Joseph treated them kindly. Sometimes unbelievers may be unkind to you when you walk in holiness and love, but you can love them, because Jesus has enough love for everyone, and through you He is drawing them to Himself.



Jeremiah 31:3 "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

OBJECT LESSON: (Cover a person with a white sheet and hug him)

- Jesus loves you so much that He chose you to be His very own child, and He loves you like Jacob loved Joseph!
- When you love Jesus, your sins are all forgiven, washed as white as snow, and God covers you with His own robe of holiness!
- Knowing how very much he was loved gave Joseph confidence.
- Knowing you are loved by our Lord Jesus Christ, and clothed in His robe of righteousness will give you great confidence!

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."



FUN ACTIVITY:

(Give each young person (and the young at heart) a frosted cookie man on a plate, with a bag of M&M's.)

"Here is a cookie man for each of you, so you can clothe him in a beautiful coat of many colors, just like the beautiful coat that Joseph's father gave to him!"

10. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. I can forgive others because Jesus always forgives me.
2. Knowing who I am, that I belong to Jesus, gives me courage to just say no, and walk in the plan that Jesus has for me
3. Knowing who I am, saves a lot of time because I only have to make the choice to follow Jesus once, and then stick with it!
4. Jesus wants me to take off every unclean thing because He buried all my sins, with His blood, under the tree of Calvary.
5. Taking off every unclean thing to walk in Holiness, gives God's people power.
6. Jesus gives me His name, Christian, that means anointed one, because with Jesus living in me, I can travail in prayer and win!
7. God's word is always true, and always comes to pass as He said.
8. God calls us to be a standard of holiness, in a world that sees wickedness as being normal.
9. When unbelievers are unkind to me, I will love them because Jesus has enough love for everyone, and He uses my loving them for Him, to draw them to Himself
10. Jesus clothes me in the garments of salvation, and covers me with His robe of righteousness and calls me His favorite!



Jesus gives us a perfect love like His love in our hearts so we can say 'yes' to God! Joseph assumed great responsibility as his father's favored son. Am I willing to assume the responsibility of being favored and chosen by my Father?



May we be like Joseph and care more what our Father thinks than we care about what others think of our obedience to God.

Dear Father God,

Thank you for loving me and forgiving me, and for calling me your own child. Thank you, for tenderly covering me with your own robe of righteousness. Right now, I walk away from all uncleanness, and give you my whole heart. I commit my way to you Lord, to follow you all the days of my life. **In Jesus name, Amen**

11. CHILDREN'S STORY – BECAUSE I KNOW WHO I AM



Jenny and Faith were so excited! They were finally old enough to try out for the Christian Cheerleading team! Nearly 100 girls had come, and after a long day of competition they were waiting to hear if they would be one the 10 girls called. Jenny and Faith

were both called to go up on the platform to be part of the new team and they were so excited!

Soon the girls started making plans and hanging out together at school. One day, Jenny came home and asked her mom if she could go to see a movie with her new friends. But Jenny's mom didn't think the movie was one that would be good for a Christian girl to see. "Oh, mom!" Jenny said, "You're so old fashioned, all the girls are going!" Jenny's mom looked into her eyes knowingly and said, "**Jenny, knowing who you are saves a lot of time because you already made your decision; remember who you are.**"

Those words cut like a knife into Jenny's heart. In her newly found popularity, she had been forgetting that Jesus, her Savior was her first love, and that she belonged to Him. She was thankful that in her foolish thinking she had not brought any shame on the name of Jesus, and she wanted to keep it that way! Jenny hugged her mom and said, "Thanks, mom, everything has been so exciting, you are right, I was starting to forget who I am. I love you mom and I love Jesus. It's not worth risking my faith and God's blessing in my life, **I don't want to go to that movie, because I know who I am!** I'm going to call Faith and see if she wants to come over instead."

***Proverbs 4:23** "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

What I choose to do and say, shows who I am in my heart.
The things I choose to do today, affect who I become tomorrow.

12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE

OCTOBER 1739 BC

Joseph's father made a coat of many colors for his favorite son.



Jesus loves me & clothes me with the robe of His righteousness.

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness."

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

JESUS WANTS ME TO KNOW WHO I AM
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