

## IN THE BEGINNING, WEEK 7

### Genesis 27-32: "I am Jacob"

1. When Jesus gave Peter his calling in John 21, Peter's question to Jesus is, "*Lord, what about him?*" We noted the fact that in this story, Peter shows the very human trait of missing his own calling because he was distracted by what was happening with someone else. We also noted the ridiculous reality that even in the middle of finding the empty tomb, John and Peter seem to be preoccupied with what seems like a petty rivalry between each other.

Think about your own journey. Are there times where some relationship conflict or some other human interaction has distracted you from seeing what God was up to in your life? Where you felt like you "missed" what He was doing because you were preoccupied with something far less important?

2. When we first meet Jacob in the Genesis story, he is scheming after Esau's birthright (Gen 25) and Esau's blessing (Gen 27) . While we're never told exactly why Jacob wants what belonged to Esau, we can all relate to the feeling of being discontent with what we have and wanting more.

If you are comfortable sharing, talk about a time in your life when you wanted something someone else had- their house, their family, their personality, their skills or gifts... What was it about "them" that you wanted?

Conversely, what was it about "you" that you were (or still are) unsatisfied with?

Do you think you've ever missed God's blessing for you as a result of wanting something that you didn't already have? How?

3. Take some time and read 1st Samuel 8:4-12.

What is it that the people want?

Does their longing seem to be out of alignment with what God already has planned for them? (and by the way, is this passage not one of the most *tragic* stories that you've ever read?)

Some of you may know the “rest of the story;” the results of Israel getting a king and becoming a kingdom. How did that turn out for them? How might the people’s story have been different had they been comfortable with the identity God had given them?

4. What does it mean to you to be “comfortable in your own skin?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Are you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Sometimes, we need to just take some time and remind ourselves what God is up to in our own lives. So, make a list below: What are the top 5 “blessings” in your life right now? In other words, What can you look around and clearly say, “God has clearly done \_\_\_\_\_ for me, and I’m thankful for it?”
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.

Now, take your list and use it as your guide for prayer to close your time together. If you are comfortable doing so, pray your whole list out loud, with the simple line, “God thank you for blessing me with \_\_\_\_\_.”