



BIBLE STUDY

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

BIBLE STUDY NORMS

MAJOR CHARACTERS IN THE BIBLE

LEADER NORMS

Take some time to read over these on your own.

- * Please prepare and look over the material for the week. We designed this study to be very user-friendly, but it is your responsibility to come prepared each week and best tailor this study to your group's needs.
- * Please look over the questions and answers we have prepared for you. Feel free to add or take away questions as you see fit to best meet the needs of your group.
- * Foster a group that asks questions and leads discussion themselves (Est. at the beginning of the semester).

GROUP NORMS

Take some time to read over these with your group.

- * Value the contribution and voice of all group members
- * Give people time to respond, silence is okay.
- * Challenge people in their thinking. Ask questions like "What led you to that answer?" or "Where did you find that in the passage?"
- * Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?"
- * Lean into the fact that we are an interdominational movement and learn from one another's different theological backgrounds. Please respect and honor those in your group that might think differently than you.

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY MODEL

OVERVIEW

01

This section will provide you with a general overview of the characters we will be looking at in the study. It will also provide you with some vocabulary words for your group and the first set of questions to help you gauge your groups understanding beforehand.

VIDEO

02

This section will provide you with a video that discusses the characters and section of the Bible we will be in. It will also be the section where you pray to start the study.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

03

In this section you will find the passage that we will be reading as well as the launch question and some understanding questions for your group. It will also provide the supportive New Testament text with questions for the group.

QUESTIONS

04

This is where you will have all of your questions.

ANSWERS

05

This is where you will have all the answers to the questions. Question number and answer number will correpsond.

NEXT STEPS

06

This section will provide you with some additional resources and will encourage you to gauge your groups understanding of the discussion you just had.

WEEK **04**

JACOB

JACOB

OVERVIEW

01

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

GENESIS 28: 1-22- *A Patriarch of the Promised Land*

In Genesis 28 we meet Jacob. Jacob is the grandson of a person from a previous study: Abraham! Abraham had Isaac which was the promised child and Isaac was the promised seed that carried the gospel line which Jesus came through. Isaac eventually had 2 sons whose names were Esau and Jacob. Jacob was the second born son. In the chapter prior to what we are reading (Genesis 27) Jacob becomes the recipient of the Gospel blessings and inheritance through the birthright over Esau and thus the seed by which God's chosen people will come from. However, this causes strife between him and Esau and Esau wants to now kill him. So Jacob begins to flee their home to find a wife to marry that is in the gospel line.

GROUP CONTEXT QUESTIONS: (~5 MIN)

Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?

Who: is Jacob?

What: did Jacob do?

When: is Jacob in the Bible?

Where: is Jacob in the Bible?

Why: should we know about Jacob?

How: does Jacob impact us?

VOCABULARY WORDS:

- (Biblical) Patriarch
 - the founding fathers of Israel who received God's covenant promises and established the nation. Think Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

WHEN AND WHERE

- When asking when and where is Jacob in the Bible, make sure to cover setting as well as book and chapters of the Bible. Who came before him and after him? What else was going on in the world?

JACOB

VIDEO

02

WATCH THESE VIDEOS WITH YOUR GROUP

Watch this video and maybe even share it with your group!

- * This video discusses who Jacob is and what are some of the things he did in the Bible. Feel free to watch this video and decide if you want to share it with the group.
- * Allow your group to discuss what they think about the video if you think that would be beneficial.
- * [Video Link Here](#)



[Watch video on YouTube](#)

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PRAY FOR TONIGHTS STUDY

Ask someone in the group to pray

JACOB

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

03

LAUNCH QUESTION (~5 MIN)

Allow the group to discuss

- * Has there ever been a time in your life when you knew what God wanted you to do, but you were reluctant to obey or didn't believe him?

READ THE PASSAGE: (~5 MIN)

You can break up the reading of the passage: Genesis 28:1-22

- * Allow the group time to look back over all that they just read
- * Discuss what stood out to everyone and go through the understanding questions

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS: (~5 MIN)

Allow the group to discuss. What does this passage teach us about:

- * God (Father, Son and Spirit)?
- * The world?
- * How we relate to God?
- * How we relate to the world?

SUPPORTIVE NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGE: (~5-10MIN)

Ask the first question and then read John 1:51

- * Does the New Testament say anything about these characters? (Read John 1:51)
- * How does this passage connect with a main theme that points me to Christ?
- * How does this passage aid my understanding of Christ and what he's done?

NT PASSAGE

- Sometimes it can be less clear of a connection between the Old and New Testament. This passage shows that Jesus is ultimately the ladder by which humanity gains access to God, replacing the symbolic ladder with His own person. He does this by his active and passive obedience.

JACOB

QUESTIONS

03

OBSERVATION & INTERPRETATION: (~10-20 MIN)

What sticks out to you?

Read Genesis 28: 1-5

- 1 Who does Isaac tell Jacob to not marry?
- 2 Who does he want him to marry instead?
- 3 Identify the specific blessing that God gives to Jacob. How many sections are in the blessing?
- 4 What does this blessing echo?
- 5 Did Jacob obey Isaac?
- 6 What is the significance of marriage and marrying a relative as opposed to a Canaanite Woman?
- 7 Why does Isaac invoke the Abrahamic blessing on Jacob? What is the significance of this?

Read Genesis 28: 6-9

- 8 Who is Esau?
- 9 What led Esau to marry Ishmael's daughter?
- 10 Esau had two Canaanite wives prior to this. Does the text say he divorced them? Why is this significant?

Read Genesis 28: 10-22

- 12 What happens in this passage?
- 13 When does God encounter Jacob?
- 14 Where is God standing in the dream?
- *15 What is the dream that Jacobs sees? Break down the different aspects of the dream? (Maybe even draw an illustration of it).
- 16 How does God identify himself in the passage?
- 17 What is the covenant promise that God gives to Jacob? Does it sound familiar?
- 18 What does Jacob do when he wakes up?
- 19 Is the vow that Jacob makes conditional or unconditional?
- 20 What does Jacob promise to do in the vow?
- 21 Why does God give this vision to Jacob?
- 21 What is the significance of the ladder?
- 22 Why does God give this vision to Jacob?
- 23 Is Jacob converted and a believer at this point? What in verses 18-22 suggests your answer?

APPLICATION:

What does this mean for us?

- 22 Just like Jacob obeyed Isaac, so are we called to obey God and his word. Even if it is hard. What is one area of your life that God is wanting you to obey him more in? (time, sexual sin, work ethic, habits, food, friends, etc.)
- 23 How do these verses apply to us today regarding marriage and obedience to God? What makes this challenging, and why does it matter? In what area of your life is God calling you to greater obedience right now?
- 24 How have you acted out of envy for approval like Esau, and how is God calling you to change? In what ways do you try to appease your conscience with partial obedience instead of fully obeying God?
- 25 Jacobs' response to this supernatural experience was conditional. Oftentimes our repentance can be conditional. Is this something you are currently guilty of? What does God want you to fully give yourself to, or give up?
- 26 In what ways are you trying to earn your salvation and what do you need to surrender to Jesus because he has already accomplished it?

JACOB

ANSWERS

04

WHAT ARE THE ANSWERS?:

Answers correspond with question numbers

- 1 A Canaanite Woman.
- 2 One of the daughters of Laban (a child of his Uncle).
- 3 “God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you” and “May he give the blessings of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you”. There are 2 sections. Both blessings have a reason after them. Jacob was promised a land, a nation, and a blessing.
- 4 The Abrahamic blessing in Genesis 12.
- 5 Yes. Note also that he is traveling 550 miles on foot! He has a lot of faith!
- 6 (1) It keeps the line of the gospel secure and ensures that the seed will continue, (2) but also this is significant because the Canaanites worshipped other Gods but it is inferred that Laban's family worshipped YHWH; therefore the family will remain fully obedient to YHWH and not another God (idol).
- 7 Abrahamic blessing was the covenant promise that God made with Abraham in Genesis 12 and is the version of the birthright that Jacob would gain. This now shows that Jacob is now carrying the covenant promise of God that Abraham carried (which climaxes in Christ!).
- 8 Esau is Jacob's brother who gave up his birthright to Jacob and now wants Jacob to die. He sees Isaac bless Jacob and notices that Isaac (his father) is pleased by Jacob's obedience and is not pleased by his wives who are Canaanites. Therefore he marries an Israelite to amend the situation.
- 9 Selfishness and Idolatry. Although he did a good thing (in that he married an Israelite) he did it for the wrong reasons. He did not do it to obey God or his Dad but rather to seek the approval of others.
- 10 He did not divorce them. This is significant because it shows that he did not fully obey God and shows that his intentions were flawed from the start. Not only that but it shows that he is still in rebellion against God's law.
- 11 Jacob falls asleep and God gives him a dream and in it he sees a ladder where Angels are ascending and descending.
- 12 In a dream.
- 13 Next to Jacob on the ground!
- 14 By his covenant name: The Lord the God of Abraham his Father and Isaac.
- 15 It is an echo of Genesis 12:1-3 which is the Abrahamic covenant. He also promises that he will be with him wherever he goes and that he will not leave him.
- 15 He is excited and sets up a pillar and pours oil on it and names it Bethel which means House of God (Beth=House El=God). He also makes a vow to God.
- 17 It is conditional. He will only let the LORD be his God if God sustains him.
- 19 Tithe to God.
- 20 In it God shows that he still intends to make the earth his dwelling place (or, tabernacle [note back to John 1:14]).
- 20 The ladder is the Gospel in a nutshell in the Old Testament. It is God showing many things: (1) that God is not disinterested or far from our struggles but near, (2) it shows not humans ascending to God but God descending to man, and (3) in the vision he attaches the ladder to the covenant promise thereby relating salvation to the covenant.
- 21 We do not know for sure but we can infer that Jacob is not converted yet. But he is getting closer! Although Jacob commemorates the special event by setting up a pillar and consecrating it with oil it is noteworthy that he does not build an altar. This is a further indication that he has not yet fully accepted the Lord as his God.

APPLICATION ANSWERS:

Allow the group to discuss these questions

JACOB

NEXT STEPS

05

NEXT WEEK

Decide as a group about next week

- * Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?
- * Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?
- * Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if need be)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's going on???

- * Where is Cru this week?
- * What are our next upcoming events?
- * Any other announcements?

PRAYER

Break off and pray

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Provide these for your group's further learning

- * [What is Typology?](#)
- * [Answers in Genesis](#)
- * ["Adam and Eve: A Type of Christ and the Church"](#)
- * [Tabletalk Magazine - Adam, Our Federal Head](#)
- * [Our First Federal Head](#)
- * [Death In Adam, Life in Christ](#)