

parent cue: life apps with jacob series

These resources are meant for you to be able to connect with your student, and what they are learning on Sunday in One Eighty. We suggest that you plan a time each week, whether it is a car ride or a discussion over dinner, to discuss this truth with your student.

Week 1 Overview : Identity // Genesis 26

The story cuts in as Isaac is getting ready to give his favorite son, Esau, a blessing. Through pretending to be someone he was not, Jacob steals this blessing.

Who am I? Answering this question is the main task of adolescence. On the other hand, we are all looking for blessing and acceptance from others. Sometimes, it is very tempting to fake it. How do we answer this question, and where does our identity come from?

Discussion Questions (should be answered by the student and the parent):

- If you could use four words to describe yourself, what would they be?
- How are our relationships affected if we hide or pretend to be someone else?

Parents, take this time to share with your student one of the “goatskins” in your life, and how you have worked out a healthy identity for yourself.

Week 2 Overview: Dealmaker // Genesis 28

As Jacob flees for his life, he makes a deal with God. If God protects and provides for him, then he will serve him. Jacob doesn't realize that he can't put conditions on or manipulate God, and that this will lead him to shallow faith.

We are all tempted to make deals with God, and are often surprised when we hold to our end of the bargain, and we don't get what we wished for. We must learn, along with Jacob, that God is true to his word, but will never bow to my wishes.

Discussion Questions (should be answered by the student and the parent):

- How do you typically react when things do not go according to plan?
- What is the difference between us using God and loving God?

Parents – share a time when you tried to make a deal with God. How did it turn out? How did it affect your relationship with God?

Week 3 Overview: Forgive and forget? // Genesis 32&33

Jacob prepares to see his brother for the first time in over 20 years. The only problem is that the last time they were together, Esau wanted to murder Jacob for cheating him out of his father's blessing. Jacob is terrified, but prepares to ask for his brother's forgiveness.

What about us? We all have regrets from decisions and relationships – how are we suppose to get past them? Without learning to forgive others and ourselves, these things will cloud up our heart, and hold us back.

Discussion Questions (should be answered by the student and the parent):

- When we talk about “re-do” moments, what comes to your mind? What do you wish you could have a do-over on?
- Have you experienced the difference in someone feeling sorry and someone being sorry enough to change? What was that like?

Parents – talk about how forgiveness has played out in your life.

Week 4 Overview: Wrestling with God // Genesis 32

Jacob gets a surprise in the middle of the night as someone comes to him and begins to wrestle with him. Even though he is not winning, Jacob refuses to let go. At the end of the wrestling match, Jacob realizes that it was God that he was wrestling with.

There are times in our lives when we must wrestle with God in order to go deeper in relationship with him. Why would God wound us? What will we gain by refusing to walk away?

Discussion Questions (should be answered by the student and the parent):

- Have you ever wrestled with God before? What was the outcome?
- What do you see in the way that Jacob wrestles with God that stands out to you?
- Why is it so hard to hold on?

Parents – Share how wrestling with God has helped define your life