

# Sermon Discussion Questions

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell**

**Topic: Genesis**

**Scripture: Gen 35:1-29**

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Genesis 35:1-8
  - What command does God give Jacob in verse 1, and why is Bethel a significant place for him?
  - How does Jacob instruct his household to prepare before going to Bethel? (v. 2-3)
  - What actions do Jacob's household take in response to his instructions? (v. 4)
  - How does God protect Jacob as he travels, and what does Jacob do when he arrives? (v. 5-7)
  - What event is recorded in verse 8, and why is it noteworthy?
  - How does Jacob's call to return to Bethel highlight the importance of spiritual renewal and returning to places of worship and commitment? (See Revelation 2:4-5.)
  - What can we learn from Jacob's instructions about removing idols and purifying the household before encountering God? (See Joshua 24:14-15.)
  - How does God's protection in verse 5 encourage believers to trust His presence when obeying His direction? (See Psalm 121:7-8.)
- Read Genesis 35:9-15
  - What does God reaffirm to Jacob when He appears to him again? (v. 9-11)
  - What name does God give Jacob, and why is it significant? (v. 10)
  - What promises does God repeat that echo the covenant with Abraham and Isaac? (v. 11-12)
  - How does Jacob respond in verses 14-15, and what does this show about his worship?
  - How does God's reaffirmation of His promises remind us of His faithfulness despite our failures and detours? (See Lamentations 3:22-23.)
  - What can we learn from Jacob's response of worship and consecration at Bethel? (See Romans 12:1.)
  - How does remembering God's promises shape how we live through seasons of transition and uncertainty? (See Hebrews 10:23.)
- Read Genesis 35:16-29
  - What happens to Rachel during their journey, and what name is given to her son? (v. 16-18)
  - What tribute does Jacob give Rachel after her death? (v. 19-20)
  - What troubling event involving Reuben is recorded in verse 22, and how might it affect future family dynamics?
  - What list is provided in verses 23-26, and why is it significant for Israel's history?
  - How does the chapter conclude with Isaac, and what does this indicate about the family's transition? (v. 27-29)
  - How does this section remind us that even in seasons of obedience and blessing, life also includes grief and hardship? (See Psalm 34:18.)
  - What can we learn from Jacob's memorial for Rachel about honoring the past while continuing forward in faith? (See Ecclesiastes 7:2.)
  - How does the listing of Jacob's sons remind us that God works through imperfect families to accomplish His purposes? (See Acts 7:8.)