

After years of living in a land that was not where Jacob was directed to go, he finally makes his way to Bethel. It is here, in Bethel, where God again appears to Jacob, gives him his new identity, a new son, and where Rachel and Isaac come to rest. It's the closure of one chapter, and the beginning of another.

## Genesis 35:1-29

God

Renames

Jacob

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Many can relate to the idea of spiritual renewal, the notion that we can slip into old habits, mundane behavior, or maybe even sinful attitudes, necessitating a reorientation back to what is True. Because God loves and pursues us, He can bring about scenarios and circumstances, sometimes involving pain and difficulty, that grab our attention, drawing us back to Himself.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**HAVE** you ever experienced a time in your life you'd refer to as "spiritually renewing"?

**WHY** do we sometimes drift, or even avoid, God's design for our lives?

**WHAT** circumstances have you seen God use in your own life to draw you back into His presence?

**HOW** "costly" or painful have experiences of renewal been in your life? **WOULD** you say the pain was necessary in your situation?

# Genesis 35:1-29 Read Genesis 35:1-29

## God Renames Jacob

### OBSERVATION

As the section opens, where does God call Jacob to go dwell?

In verse 2-3, what does Jacob demand of his family before responding to God's direction in vs. 1?

How did the neighboring cities view Jacob upon his arrival (vs. 5)?

What does Jacob do upon his arrival to Luz, and why, according to vs. 6-7?

Who appears to Jacob for a second time and what does he say in vs. 9-12?

According to vs. 14-15, what does Jacob name this place?

As the section closes, who is born (vs. 16-18) and who dies (vs. 19, 29)?

### INTERPRETATION

Why does God send Jacob to Bethel? What was significant about this location? See 28:10-22.

Why is the order of events Jacob call his household to in vs. 2-3 so important?

Where did Jacob's household acquire these foreign gods? Consider chapter. 34:1-2 for insight.

In vs. 9-10 God appears to Jacob a second time here at Bethel. Compare/contrast this encounter to the first one in 28:10-22.

In vs. 10 God renames Jacob for a second time (recall 32:22-28) Why does He do this again?

What promise does God give Jacob immediately after his name change in vs. 11-12? Why is this particular order important to note? Consider the life, example, and situation Jacob just experienced in 34:30 for insight.

How significant is the identity change Jacob experiences in this section?

How does the experience of vs 2, 9-11 mirror that of Ephesians 4:21-32?

### APPLICATION

How certain are you of your spiritual identity? Is there a need for renewal of who you are in Christ?