It’s Never Too Late

Genesis 30-32
pages 24-27

developing missionaries who share the love of Christ with our community & beyond
VBS Volunteer Training

Save the date for this summer’s VBS ‘In The Wild’ June 10-14. Volunteer training will take place Sunday, May 19 at noon in the gym. Please contact Julee Williams at 941-722-0810 or JR.Williams@fbcpalmetto.com for more info and to RSVP.

King’s Kids Summer Camp

Registration is underway for King’s Kids Summer Camp June 3-August 2. Camp is Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-5:30 pm for kids who have completed K-5. For more information contact Kathy Taylor, King’s Kids Director, at 941-722-0840.

FBC Palmetto App

FBC Palmetto has an app for smart phone and tablet users. Download it from your app store and have instant access to the ESV Bible, prayer requests, connection cards, live stream, videos, online giving and more. You can also visit the church website at www.fbcpalmetto.com. Under the media drop-down tab you will find daily devotionals, live services, resources and weekly sermons.

Admitted to the Hospital?

We care about you and want to know if you become hospitalized. Privacy laws prevent hospitals from alerting us that you have been admitted. Please call the church office at 941-722-7795. Be sure to let us know the patient’s full name, hospital and room number.

Beyond These Walls

This week we pray for Lead Pastor Michael Kennedy of North River Church who seeks prayer for blessings on their capital campaign for a permanent facility. This will allow them to move from meeting at a local elementary school to a permanent home. As they walk through this process, they want to keep in mind the building is not the goal...it is a tool God can use to help fulfill His mission, which is the ultimate goal.

Next Steps Luncheon

Do you want to know more about FBC’s core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? Join us on Sunday, May 19 at noon for a class that will answer your questions about the heart of FBC Palmetto. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advanced registration. Call the church office to sign up 941-722-7795.

SonShiners Luncheon

The next SonShiners Luncheon is on Tuesday, May 21 at 10:30 am in the gym. This will be the last SonShiners Luncheon until the fall. Tickets are $5 and are available in the Rotunda after today’s worship services.

First Impressions Team

Are you looking for a place to serve? We would love to have you join our First Impressions Team as a greeter or usher. Please contact Joy Williams in the church office at 941-722-7795 for more information.
Sermon Notes – It’s Never Too Late

Big Idea: ________________________________________________
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Application: _____________________________________________
Discussion Questions

• What movie or story had the most unexpected ending? Did you like it? Why or why not?

• What topics do people wrestle with God over? What are we expecting God to do when we wrestle with Him?

• Describe the scenario surrounding Jacob's wrestling match. Where was he heading? Where had he been? How do this effect the events of this particular night?

• What do you think Jacob may have expected from God the night before meeting Esau?

• Why was Jacob’s hip dislocated? What is the significance that God was the one who caused it?

• Jacob’s name was changed. What was it changed to and from? What do these names mean? Why is the name change significant?

• What are different ways Jacob has strived with man throughout his life? Why did he want a blessing from God?

• Discuss how Jacob’s life would have been affected with a dislocated hip.

• We usually know how we want God to change a situation but discuss how we get changed in the process. For the better? For the worse?

• Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. How does this relate to the story of Jacob? How does this relate to your life?

One-Year Bible Reading Plan

WEEK 21

☐ Day 101
Exodus 13:17-14:31
Ps 80

☐ Day 102
Romans 1
Ps 81

☐ Day 103
Romans 2
Ps 82

☐ Day 104
Romans 3:1-4:12
Ps 83:1–6

☐ Day 105
Exodus 19:1-20:21
Ps 83:7–18
Scripture

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Pause

1. What does Paul ask of God? How does God answer Him?

2. What are the characteristics produced in Paul because of his struggle?

Pursue

Read 2 Corinthians 12. Reflect on the struggles you've had with God. How have they changed you?

Pray

Thank God that He is strong in our weakness and His grace is sufficient despite the scars in our lives.
**Tuesday – The Children are Learning**

*By George Volpe*

Maybe you have seen the commercial where a young boy mimics everything his father does from the way he sits to how he arranges his hand under his chin while reading the paper. In the background you hear the boy singing, “I want you – to show me the way…every day…” It’s incredible that such a principle should come from an advertisement. I wonder if they realize how Biblical that message is.

Aristotle said, “Give me a child until he is seven, and I’ll show you the man.” Lenin said, “Give me just one generation of youth, and I’ll transform the whole world.” Their point is that early childhood learning has a profound effect on a child’s life, beliefs, and direction. As parents, we need to diligently fulfill our responsibility to build and nurture families that honor the one true God, Jesus Christ.

Wicked forces in our world have been pushing feverishly to destroy our willingness to obey God since man was created. One of the ways they accomplish this is tireless promotion of humanistic excuses that pretend to be “fair” to everyone while introducing destructive thoughts, habits, and ideologies.

Deuteronomy 6:7 reads, "And you shall teach them (God's words) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk with them, and when you lie down, and when you get up.” That is a clear command to parents today.

And God's word reinforces the importance of following and providing a good example. Jesus said, “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:15)

If you trace the lineage of Jacob, you will find troubling family relationships over and over again. Lying, anger, fighting, incest, and even murder – within the family. How did this happen?

Rachel and Leah both struggled to get the upper hand in childbearing in order to increase their children’s share of inheritance, demonstrating their desire for more. They did what Sara did – they “gave” their handmaid to their husband to claim the handmaid’s child as their own. This was not dependence on God’s provision or His timing. This was selfishness and covetousness, impatience and adultery. This was a willingness to sin by circumventing obedience to God and blaming God for not providing according to their desires and their personal plans.

All the while the children learned how to put personal control over what is right and good in God’s eyes. It’s no wonder Jacob and Esau struggled through life. Healthy family relationships are not an accident. Honoring God above personal issues builds a strong family, a strong community, a strong nation.

*Read Matthew 18:1-6.*
**Scripture**

Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

Genesis 32:26-28

**Pause**

1. What are some of the ways Jacob wrestled with men (Isaac, Esau, Laban) throughout his life?

2. What is the significance of Jacob's name change?

3. How has God symbolically changed your name?

**Pursue**

To see all the ways Jacob struggled with men read the following passages. Reflect on how, despite our scars, God still chooses to use us.


**Pray**

Thank God that He changed your name despite your history filled with brokenness and struggles with men. Let go of the shame and guilt that accompany those choices of the past and rest assured in the freedom that comes through Christ's death and resurrection.
Thursday – A New Name

By Abby Hamm

“What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel . . . .”

Genesis 32:27-28

Jacob spent his whole life wrestling with men. His name meant “deceiver” and that was exactly who he became. He traded Esau’s birthright for a measly bowl of soup, he tricked his father into blessing him, and he stole livestock from his father-in-law. On top of all this, his home-life resembled this year’s season of the Bachelor. Talk about a dysfunctional family!

Jacob’s life was characterized by broken relationships, empty promises, and an overall struggle with mankind. When he found himself in a wrestling match with the Angel of the Lord, I don’t think he realized how drastically his life was going to change. The angel was gracious enough to let Jacob hold his own for most of the night, but as day approached it only took one touch to dislocate Jacob’s hip and leave him with a limp for the rest of his days. When Jacob recognized his opponent was divine, he immediately asked for the blessing he’d been after his whole life. In that moment, the angel changed his identity from “deceiver” to “One who strives with God.”

Just as in our lives, Jacob’s problems didn’t disappear simply because of a change of heart. The passages that follow give the reader evidence that Jacob is attempting to make right past wrongs. He reconciles with his brother Esau and he rebuilds one of his grandfather’s altars in Shechem.

This encounter with the divine drastically affects the trajectory of Jacob’s life. The God of his fathers has now become his God. When we truly meet God “face to face” we can’t help but be radically transformed. Many of us have histories littered with brokenness. We want to be identified by more than our mistakes, but we can’t seem to find a new name on our own.

As Jacob sat alone awaiting the impending doom of meeting his older brother, he met with God one on one. God took Jacob’s past identity and replaced it with one that placed God at center stage. God desires to take the shame and guilt from your past mistakes and replace it with a name that redefines you as one of His children. It’s never too late, just look at Jacob’s life. God is always inviting you to meet Him “face to face” and find your new identity.
Friday
By Abby Hamm

Scripture

“And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.”

Genesis 32:24-25

Pause

1. Why did “the man” let Jacob hold his own for the majority of the wrestling match?

2. What purpose did the limp serve for Jacob?

Pursue

Jacob’s limp reminded him of the time he saw God face to face and it changed his life forever. Think of a time Christ has worked in your life and write it down on an index card. Place this card somewhere you will see it daily. This will serve as a reminder of what God has done in your life.

Pray

Pray that your eyes will be opened to God’s hand in your life. Ask that you would have a heart that sees the pain in your life as a reminder of God’s miraculous grace.
Weekend – Failing Forward

By Phillip Hamm

When I was a very little boy, I wanted to learn to ride without training wheels. At dinner one night I told my dad I thought I was ready. He said after he got home from work, he would take the training wheels off and we could practice. At this point in the conversation my brother chimed in and offered to help. He said he would be more than happy to take the training wheels off and teach me to ride without them. My father told my brother in no uncertain terms he was not allowed to help. At all. Ever. Evidently my brother had attempted to teach me a few other things that turned out poorly for me. My father was simply trying to keep his youngest son alive.

After school the next day my brother brought up the previous night’s dinner conversation regarding my bike. Only he recalled our dad’s words a bit differently. “Dad just didn’t want me using his tools for the job,” he said. “He knows I can teach you how to ride your bike.” So, with the neighbors’ tools, my bike was quickly transformed. I found myself eagerly standing at the end of our driveway, neighbor kids cheering me on, when my brother gave me one bit of advice. “Don’t run into anything.”

I was doing so good. I rode straight and I rode hard. But at the end of the driveway stood my mom’s 1978 Chevrolet Malibu. It was a beast of a car and took up most of the driveway. As I approached the baby blue steel behemoth my mind failed to recall my brothers’ instructions. I met that car head on … and lost. Crying and angry I rushed into the house to expose my brother. I learned the more I limped the angrier my parents got with him.

Here’s where I went wrong: I didn’t listen to my dad. I got cocky, thinking I didn’t really need him to help me. I thought I could reign in my brother if he went too far. I thought I could handle it on my own. I thought I knew best. But the baby blue dent in my bike would tell a different story.

In preparation for Sunday’s worship read 2 Chronicles 26. Where did Uzziah go wrong? When did he start thinking he knew best?

Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship Sunday morning read Psalm 2.

Pray for the World: Ethiopia

This fertile, mountain plateau in Africa is surrounded by the drought-prone lowlands and deserts of the Red Sea coast. It borders on Eritrea, Somalia, Kenya and Sudan. Ethiopia has a population of 85 million and is the size of Texas and California combined. Over 60% of the population professes to be Christian. Massive growth in Christian churches creates a great expectation for further harvest. Challenges for prayer are a) Revival and growth to be sustained and for divisions and carnality to be avoided. b) Effective means for generating income to support Kingdom workers, to develop the needed structures and facilities and to fund social programs essential in the prevailing conditions of deep poverty. c) Continued unity and cooperation among leaders. Relationships among denominations seem stronger than the divisions that occur within denominations; pray against the dividing influences of the enemy and human pride. (operation world)
Deacons of the Week:
Kris Rickly & Colin Tripp

This Week:
Sunday, May 19
12:00 pm Next Steps Luncheon
12:00 pm VBS Volunteer Training

Tuesday, May 21
10:30 am SonShiners Luncheon

Wednesday, May 22
5:00 pm Family Supper: Spaghetti
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Midweek Prayer
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, May 23
9:30 am Mind, Body & Soul Ladies Bible Study

Upcoming Events:
May 27: Memorial Day/Campus Closed
June 2: VBS Setup Begins
June 3: King’s Kid’s Summer Camp Begins
June 4: Deacons Meeting
June 10-15: VBS Week

Weekly at FBC
Sundays:
8:00 am Bible Studies
8:30 am Worship Rehearsal
9:00 am Coffee in The Square
9:15 am Celebration Service
9:15 am Encounter Service
9:15 am Kids Sunday School
9:15 am Bible Studies
10:30 am Coffee in The Square
10:45 am Celebration Service
10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)
10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)
10:45 am Bible Studies
6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:
7:30 am WEE World
8:30 am Church Office
2:30 pm King’s Kids

Wednesdays:
3:00 pm Puppet Team Rehearsal
5:00 pm Family Supper
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Bible Studies
6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:15 pm Middle School Youth
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:
6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal

Children’s Volunteers
Week 4 May 26
Preschool Worship: Kane & Jessica Hannaford, Adria Henslick (e), Judy Kellar, Andrew & Rachel Marshall, Aimee McClellan, Anna Pavon, Di VanderNoord, Kate VanderNoord
Bed Babies: Lydia Armstrong, Alice McClary, Grace Tripp
Kid’s Worship: Sadie & Mark Palmer
ZOOM IN!
FOCUS ON JESUS!

VBS

IN THE
WILD

AMAZING ENCOUNTERS
WITH JESUS
JOHN 20:21

K-6

Vacation Bible School
JUNE 10-14 9 AM-12:30 PM