

Questions to Think About and Discuss:

1. Can you think of a time in your life when following God felt like heading in the wrong direction—like things were moving backward rather than forward? What helped you keep going, and how did you eventually see God’s faithfulness in that situation?

2. Have you ever felt like following God was leading you away from what seemed familiar, safe, or spiritually significant, like Jacob leaving Hebron? What helped you trust God during that time, and what “Beersheba moments” (times of stopping to seek God) helped you keep going?

3. Think about John Bunyan’s story that was shared in the sermon. In what ways have you seen God use a season of “setback” or apparent lack of progress in your life (or someone else’s) for a greater purpose? How can you remind yourself that even when it doesn’t feel like progress, God is still working?

4. God told Jacob, “There I will make you into a great nation”—in a place that didn’t look like a place of blessing. Is there an area of your life right now where you’re tempted to think, “God can’t possibly work here”? How might you begin trusting that this very place could be where God is working out something bigger than you can see?

5. When have you faced a major decision or season of uncertainty and felt unsure if God was really with you? What helped you experience His presence or find reassurance, even when your emotions didn’t line up with His promises?

6. God said to Jacob, “I myself will go down with you.” How does knowing that God goes with you, through both the blessings and the challenges, change the way you approach uncertainty, confusion or fear today?

7. God’s ways often feel upside-down, calling us to humble ourselves, forgive freely and often, turn the other cheek, love our enemy and die to our own wants and desires. These commands can feel just not right, especially when we’re hurting or uncertain ourselves. Which of these do you find hardest right now? How could remembering God’s past faithfulness help you trust and obey Him, even when it’s difficult?

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