

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Group Guide | November 23

Open your group time with a question (10 minutes)

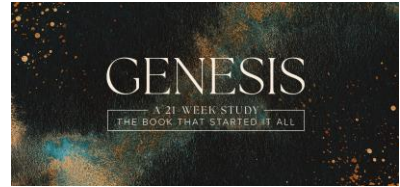
Reflect on the following:

- What are or were your Thanksgiving plans? Any highlights?
- What are you most thankful for this season?

Next, read Genesis 27:1-45 and Genesis 28:10-22. When finished, thank God for His Word in prayer and spend a few moments reflecting on this passage and on the sermon. (40 minutes)

Reflect on the following:

- What resonated or stood out or challenged you from Dan's sermon on Sunday?
- Read Genesis 28:16. In the sermon, Dan talked about how God's presence is always with us. What are the common things in your life that keep your attention off of this reality?
- How has God's presence been a great comfort to you in this season of your life?
- Another aspect of God's presence that Dan drew from our text in Genesis is that God's presence is based on grace! As Christians, how is God present to us in a unique way according to 1 Corinthians 3:16? How do Christians gain access to God's special presence in our lives (see Ephesians 2:18-22, John 1:51, and John 14:6)?
- How do people in other religions—or even spiritual people who don't follow Jesus—try to reach God, and why do they still fall short without Jesus at the center?
- How does it feel to know that, at the center of Christianity, is not man seeking for God, but God seeking man?
- Do you ever struggle with the idea that God is present because of sin? What does it mean to you that no matter what (because God's presence is based on grace) that He will be with you?



Look around, look up, and look back reflection exercise (20 minutes)

As Dan ended his sermon, he concluded with three application points: (1) Look around (to notice the season you're in); (2) Look up (to see God's presence all around); and (3) Look back (to what God has done for you in Christ!).

Take about 10 minutes to have members of your group to assess their life in light of those three categories. Have them prayerfully reflect on the following:

- Look around – what has life been like for you lately? What's been good? What's been hard?
- Look up – Where has God been in all of that?
- Look back – How does the cross and resurrection of Christ give you hope, encouragement, and comfort in the here and now?

Once finished, take another 10 minutes to have people share their reflections.

Finish your group time by coming together, sharing prayer requests, and praying for one another (5 minutes)