

LIVING YOUR LIFE

Genesis 32:24-30
Pastor Alan Dionson
November 12, 2023

INTRO

Five Things You Cannot Control

- Everything **changes** and **ends**.
- Things do not always **go** according to **plan**.
- Life is not always **fair**.
- **Pain** is part of life.
- People are not always **loving** and **loyal** all the time.

A. EMBRACE THE **PROCESS**

1. **Work** hard (Genesis 30:25-26)
2. Be **responsible** and **dependable** (Genesis 30:27-29)
3. Gain new **skills** and **understanding** (Genesis 30:37-43)
4. Put a premium on **character** (Genesis 31:38-42)
5. Navigate the challenges in **relationships** (Genesis 33:1-5)

B. DON'T LOSE THE **BIG PICTURE**

1. The **initial** picture (Genesis 27:28-29; 28:3-4)
2. The **in-between** (Genesis 30:25; 31:1-3)
3. The **final** picture (Genesis 32:9-10, 28)

C. TRUST GOD'S **PLAN** FOR YOUR LIFE

1. God **assures** us (Genesis 28:16-18)
2. God **transforms** us (Genesis 32:28-30)

CONCLUSION

Exodus 3:13, 15

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ...¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

1. In the last three weeks of our series on the life of Jacob, what were some sections of his journey that mirror your own life?
2. Jacob spent 20 years in Haran after leaving Beersheba. This “in-between” period transformed Jacob in many facets of his life. Read the passages below and reflect on applying these principles during your “in-between.”
 - **Work** hard (Genesis 30:25-26)
 - Be **responsible** and **dependable** (Genesis 30:27-29)
 - Gain new **skills** and **understanding** (Genesis 30:37-43)
 - Put a premium on **character** (Genesis 31:38-42)
 - Navigate the challenges in relationships (Genesis 33:1-5)
3. Read Genesis 32:22-32. Discuss the significance of several details in this account: Jacob being alone, at a river, at the end of exile, wrestling, the name change from Jacob to Israel, the time of day, etc.
4. Read Genesis 28:10-20. How are Jacob's two encounters with God in Bethel and Peniel similar? How are they different? What can we learn about how God deals with us through the uncertainties and unknowns?
5. Read Genesis 32:31-32. What comes to mind when you think about your scars and limps? Share your thoughts about how being a true Christ-follower is not about getting stronger; it's about growing increasingly aware of our weakness and the Lord's strength.
6. Close the Life Group meeting by praying for each other's 'limp' and the strength and resolve to live the purpose of God in our lives.