

# JACOB

## 1. Trusting the Sovereign Lord

Genesis 25:19-28

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

- The bad news – Jacob was a messed up twisted man
- The good news – God delights to call himself ‘The God of Jacob’
- There is hope for everyone because God loves to rescue ‘Jacobs’

### 1. Difficulties are part of the Christian life v21-22

- The promise given to Abraham of numerous descendants was to be fulfilled through Isaac
- Rebekah was barren for nearly 20 years – usually a cause of great shame
- Dashed hopes – Gen 24:60. Joy at pregnancy overshadowed – v22
- Blessings bring their own trials - doesn't mean God has abandoned us
- God warns us to expect trials for they strengthen us – James 1:2-4

### 2. Dependence is the key to the Christian life v21-22

- “The life I live, I live by faith” – Gal 2:20
- A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted
- Isaac and Rebekah trusted God rather than find their own solution
- Isaac pleaded with God for his wife – v21
- Rebekah took her troubles to God – v22
- We need to grasp our utter dependence on God
- Our dependence is measured by our prayer life

### 3. He can be trusted because he is sovereign v23

- God decrees who will be the one in charge, he decrees two nations
- His choice isn't based on the performance of either, but on mercy & love
- A warning – we are not accepted because of our performance
- Hope – anyone can ask God to choose them
- Comfort – in the barren desolate moments God is still sovereign, and looks on your in love and mercy not on your performance

### 4. He can be trusted because he keeps his word v24-26

- God kept his word given to Abraham 57 years previously – Gen 21:12
- No matter how long you wait, God keeps his word
- No matter how impossible his promise seems, he keeps his word
- Signposts to Jesus
  - You can trust God because Jesus went through ultimate barrenness (forsakenness) so that we would never be forsaken
  - Before you were born God set his love on you & decreed that the older brother (Jesus) should serve the younger (us) – on the cross
- v27-28 – our Father is the true and perfect father who doesn't favour one of his children above others, but loves all equally
- That's why he can be trusted amidst the barren patches of life



# new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 14th September 08

Welcome to our service this morning - today we are remembering Christ's death for sinners as we take part in the Lord's Supper.

If you are a Christian and haven't joined with us for the Lord's Supper before, and haven't yet spoken to the elders about your faith in Jesus Christ, we'd invite you to watch, and come and speak to Mark before our next communion in December.

If you aren't a Christian, or not sure, we'd invite you to watch as well, and if you have any questions, speak to Mark or one of the elders afterwards.

You're all welcome to stay for a bite of lunch after the service

### Notices

Sab	Evening Service at Mark & Judith's Prayer & Praise	8pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Housing warming at Declan's!	
Sab 28 <sup>th</sup>	Praise Service in Stranorlar	7.30pm
October Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Installation of Steven Robinson in Faughan	2pm
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Donegal Christian Women's Conference "Heaven Scent" – Linda Basdeo (Irish Bible Institute) Jackson's Hotel – Ballybofey Forms available – cost of day €35	

Sabbath 21st - Prizing & Despising - Genesis 25:29-34

Opening Psalm: 84A:1-6

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