

# April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Message Discussion Questions

## Jacob Part 2 – Genesis 35.1-15 (week 2)

On Sunday we finished our series in the life of Jacob in Genesis 35. The main question we tried to answer together was HOW MESSY PEOPLE (like Jacob), CAN GET CLOSER TO GOD. After learning last week that that process begins with **GRACE and REPENTANCE**, this week we added 2 more: **LISTENING FOR GOD, and OBEDIENCE**.

1. (OPTIONAL) If people from your group were there ask them and have them share:
  - What was the main take away for you from Sunday's sermon?
  - What's going to/has changed for you this week as a result?

*James, in the New Testament picks up on the same themes of LISTENING and OBEDIENCE that are present in Jacob's story that are a helpful further study for us to see how they can play out together in our lives.*

As a group read James 1.19-25

2. Now re-read and just focus on vv19-21.
  - What do you observe in these verses and what's the main idea?
  - What further insight does this give you about LISTENING to God?
  - Each of these 3 verses is connected (relates) to the one(s) before it. What are the connecting words between the verses and how does that help you understand the connections?
3. Now read vv22-25.
  - What do you observe in these verses and what's the main idea?
  - What relationship does James present as existing between LISTENING and OBEDIENCE?
    - How does the picture of "a mirror" help explain this?
  - What does it mean to be "blessed" in what you do? (v25)
4. In vv26-27 James goes into some really practical suggestions of what "OBEDIENCE" could look like in our lives today. Read those verses together as a group and then answer the following questions:
  - What does a "doer" of the word look like today?
  - What's one thing you'll apply to your life this week from this text?
5. Some people get a little nervous talking about obedience, thinking its just "legalism." Close you group time today talking about the GOSPEL, and how it applies to the OBEDIENCE we're called to have in our lives.

6. Pray for one another before you go.