



START HERE GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

It's Egg Hunt preparation time! We need 170 volunteers and enough candy to fill 16,000 eggs! This is our biggest outreach to the community we do all year. Please help make this event a success by participating. Here's an idea! Volunteer as a Life Group team in the same area and serve along side your Life Group family. Or have a contest to get as many bags of candy as you can as a Life Group! THANK YOU for your help!

Scan the code to sign up to volunteer





START HERE

GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

Week 25 | New Patterns | Genesis 25:21-34

COUNTER THE INFLUENCE OF THE WORLD BY ESTABLISHING GOOD, GODLY PATTERNS

Neuroscience has proven that our brains are constantly changing in response to incoming stimuli from conception to death. In every moment of your life; sights, sounds, feelings, what you do, experience, think and hope physically changes your brain through what is called neuroplasticity. Put simply; your brain is being shaped every minute of every day based on input. This shaping follows a rule known as the “Hebbian Rule,” which basically says that neurons that fire together wire together, meaning that the connections between neurons become more easily activated and new neurons grow when they are repeatedly stimulated in a coordinated pattern, ultimately forming a neurological network. Brains can effectively be sculpted when stimuli are strategically and consistently coordinated, a strategy that major social media platforms take advantage of with alarming success and one that is, to a great detriment, impacting our culture. The issue is compounded considering that in the 20th century, our culture transitioned from a value system derived from words to one derived from images.

This constant saturation and consequential brain shaping have left people with a false image and expectation of life and a value system that leads to emptiness and confusion. Freedom from that is something that only the God of the Bible can offer.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time in prayer to sincerely ask God by His Spirit to search your hearts that He might reveal what has the greatest influence in your lives and what patterns you need to change.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you’ve had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. As a parent, you are the single greatest influence in your child’s life. Which is why it is so important to lay down consistent, godly patterns that will help shape him/her.
For those of you who are parents, how are you succeeding in this, and how are you failing? If you were to pass on advice to younger parents or someone who hopes to have a family, what would you say to them?

How Abraham and Sarah handled adversity in their lives became a pattern for Isaac to follow.





2. Think of examples in the Bible where people received challenging answers to their prayers. Answers that directed them to do something difficult, or to wait, or to sacrifice. Write them down and discuss them as a group.

Are you open to receiving difficult or unexpected answers to your prayers, and are you willing to walk in obedience and faith? Give examples of when you have done this.

3. Esau rejected his spiritual blessings because he was so accustomed to living in the flesh. We learned in the study that new patterns in our lives often begin when we choose to do what does not come naturally to us. To say it differently, bad habits can be broken by obedience.

Are there bad habits or sins that are keeping you from receiving and experiencing God's blessings? How does God want you to handle these things, and what applications will you make?

Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Hebrews 13:16-17



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

1 Timothy 4:7 ESV

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you, be intentional about using your time this week to be influenced by things that will build you up to godliness. Pick one godly habit to set as a pattern.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how God is moving in your life through these new patterns you're establishing.

