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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





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Week 26 | The Spiritual Decline of a Believer | Genesis 27:1-45

IF TODAY WAS YOUR LAST DAY WOULD YOU BE FINISHING YOUR RACE WELL?

A person's last words leave a lasting impression about his life. It's reported that P.T. Barnum's last words were, "What were today's receipts?" Napoleon, always obsessed with power and position, declared with his last breath, "Army! Head of the army." Jack Daniel infamously said, "One more drink please." Those final words come as no surprise for lives that were not lived for God. But what happens when a Christian in his final moments is living in spiritual decline and is drifting further away from God rather than growing nearer to Him? When the final moments are not spent preparing him for that glorious abode where he will dwell in the presence of God and the Lamb forever?

Truly, it's just as important for the Christian to have a good end to his life as it is to have a good beginning.

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 ask the Holy Spirit to reveal precisely where you are at in your relationship with God. Ask Him to help you prepare your heart for a fruitful time of study.



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. Isaac's spiritual trajectory was obviously not headed in a good direction.

Consider your own spiritual trajectory and describe in concrete terms where it appears to be heading. The whole of life, not just a part, is a race that you are running. How can you run in a way that you finish strong?

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:24

2. While we may attempt to convince ourselves otherwise, spiritual decline has an inevitable effect on the people around us.

Describe how this was evident in Isaac's family.





3. One unmistakable marker of someone who is in spiritual decline is that they begin to live their lives pragmatically, without considering faith in their decision-making. They will often resort to ungodly methods to bring to pass what they believe is the best-intended outcome.

For the Christian, do the ends ever justify the means?

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.

Proverbs 12:22

4. Pastor Derek gave a sobering interpretation to 2 Timothy 2:12-13.

How can this interpretation encourage you to finish strong? It's never too late to make the changes that can alter your spiritual trajectory.

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:12-13



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you, determine that you will finish your race well. Then, establish what that means in concrete ways that you can apply and make those adjustments to your life this week.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how God faithfully ministered to your heart and strengthened you to run the race that he has set before you.

