

SERIES TITLE: LIVING IN GOD'S STORY

PART ONE: BURY THE PAST

TEXT: GENESIS 35:1-15

INTRODUCTION.

This series will go to the end of our study through Genesis. The primary focus of these final chapters is Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION.

Have you ever had a memento, picture, letter, or object that was connected to such bad memories that you destroyed it or threw it away?

EXAMINATION.

vv.1-3 What is significant about Bethel in Jacob's life?

- Why do you think Jacob responds this way to God's calling?
- Where did the foreign gods come from?

vv.4-5 What is the significance of the rings?

- Why would Jacob bury these things, and why would he do it under the oak?
- What would cause the surrounding towns to be fearful of Jacob?

vv.6-8 Why do you think Rebekah's nurse is mentioned?

vv.9-15 Jacob's name had already been changed in chapter 32. Why is it mentioned again?

- How important is the repetition of God's promises and why?

APPLICATION.

- Jacob has had multiple encounters with God and yet is inconsistent in his obedience. How does that encourage or discourage you?
- What qualifies as a "foreign god" or an idol in our modern world?

- How can we “bury” such idols?
- What kind of blessings do you think God might give to us when we dispose of those things that hinder our spiritual lives?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?