

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**  
**GENESIS 42:35FF**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The way that we react to our circumstances is indicative of our faith.
  - a) **1 PETER 2.20,21:** Jesus is our example on how to handle difficult circumstances.
  - b) **1 PETER 3.15:** *“always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”*
2. Consider the way Jacob and his family reacted to their circumstances.
  - a) Joseph knew that God was involved in his life. (Gen. 45.7,8)
  - b) The brothers reacted to their circumstances as those who did not know God. (Gen. 42.28)
3. Jacob, the father of Joseph and his brothers, can teach us about how to react to life.

**I. JACOB’S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

- A. God was with Jacob in Bethel. (Gen. 28.10-22)
  1. On his way to Haran, Jacob stopped to rest for the night. (Gen. 28.5)
  2. While he slept, Jacob had a dream. (Gen. 28.12-15)
  3. Jacob reacts to his dream.
    - a) Jacob had an emotional reaction. (Gen. 28.16,17)
    - b) Jacob had a spiritual reaction. (Gen. 28.18,19)
    - c) Jacob had a volitional reaction. (Gen. 28.20,21)
- B. God was with Jacob in Haran.
  1. Jacob lived with and served Laban for twenty years. (Gen. 31.38)
    - a) Laban deceived him with the bait and switch tactic. (Gen. 29.25)
    - b) Laban used him for his own gain. (Gen. 30.27)
    - c) Laban threatened him intending to do him harm. (Gen. 31.2)
  2. God was with Jacob just as He promised. (Gen. 31.4,5, 11-13,29,42)
- C. God was with Jacob on his journey home.
  1. God protected him from his brother in Mahanaim. (Gen. 32.1,2,9-12,28)
  2. God stayed with him as he returned to Bethel. (Gen. 35.1-3,5,9-12)

**II. JACOB’S REACTION TO HIS CIRCUMSTANCE**

- A. Hardships can be caused by the mistakes of our family.
  1. **GENESIS 42.36:** *“You have bereaved me.”*
  2. Jacob was grieved by his own uncle. (Gen. 28.5)
  3. Jacob was grieved by the bad choices of his own sons. (Gen. 34.30; 37.31,32)
- B. Grief can still overwhelm those who trust in God.
  1. **GENESIS 42.36:** *“All these things are against me.”*
    - a) Jacob had his share of hardships. (Gen. 31.42; 35.19,20)
    - b) Jacob was grieved over the assumed death of his son. (Gen. 37.33,34)
  2. Jesus was overwhelmed by grief even with the comfort of an angel. (Luke 22.43,44)
  3. Faithfulness does not guarantee comfort and relief from grief. (2 Tim. 3.10-12)
- C. Loss can be part of God’s plan.
  1. **GENESIS 42.38:** *“If calamity should befall him along the way...”*
  2. We often fear that the will of God includes our suffering loss. (Matt. 26.52-54)