



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

20/21 October 2018

Vol. 40, No. 41

Finding Peace in God's Presence and Plan

Genesis 31

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Testimony
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Patotoo
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



Finding Peace in God's Presence and Plan

Today's Message (20/21 October 2018) /
Genesis 31

GOD ISN'T
SOMEONE
WHO LETS HIS
CHILDREN JUST
FORGET HIM.
HE KNOWS
IT HARMS US
MORE THAN
IT BREAKS HIS
HEART.

Quite a number of you indicated that you can relate with Jacob's life, perhaps because you've "been there, done that." Maybe you were hoodwinked, swindled, lied to, or deceived. Maybe you did some deceiving of your own. Or, maybe you still cringe when reminiscing God's discipline, loving as it was.

Yet more than you know, your life may be similar to Jacob positively, too. If you do belong to God, like Jacob, whatever you go through, you will always find peace in God's presence and plan. It is assuring to know that Someone far bigger, more powerful than you and I holds sway over our lives and its circumstances.

God finally asks Jacob to move on. Things don't go as smoothly as Jacob would have wanted. But God makes sure it all turns out right:

1. GOD INSTRUCTS JACOB TO LEAVE THE HOUSEHOLD OF LABAN TO RETURN TO CANAAN (vv. 1-21).

- God's commands are bound to His sovereign plan. God factors in our obedience into His ultimate purpose, without being limited by our disobedience (*Proverbs 19:21*).
- Faith in God allows us to see our actual situation and to hear His voice, and ultimately leads to the act of obedience.

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude

Call To Worship

Worship Through Praise

Testimony

Worship Through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Pastoral Prayer

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Worship Through Giving

Response Song

Benediction



Finding Peace in God's Presence and Plan

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Genesis 31

2. GOD PROTECTS JACOB AS HE WAS PURSUED BY LABAN (vv. 22-35).

- When God commands, His Presence goes with His people. It's not an easy lesson to learn, but the victorious believer learns to seek God's presence more than His presents.
- Sometimes God's servants will not have all of their families following in the same faith, but God is in control nonetheless.

3. JACOB AND LABAN FORGE A COVENANT OF PEACE WITH EACH OTHER (vv. 36-55).

- When people see God at work in our lives, it's a more powerful statement than anything we'll ever say about ourselves.
- In the end Jacob remembers, or better, relearns, to worship God.

Oh what pain we must often go through before we remember to seek and worship God! God isn't someone who lets His children just forget Him. He knows it harms us more than it breaks His heart.

FINAL THOUGHTS

You may be overstaying in a situation where God has clearly asked you to leave. Or you may be abandoning a situation where God has clearly asked you to stay and persevere. God will not sadistically make you jump through hoops to know what's best. Seek Him first, and His will becomes plain (*Matthew 6:33*).

The only lasting peace you will ever have in this life is in the Presence of God, obeying the plan of God. In the end, God always rewards the obedient believer with His peace and preservation ■

DISCIPLE-MAKING THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

When thinking about how to participate in the mission of God, our number one model is Jesus Christ. Christ's example was simple, it was an invitation to follow Jesus and his ways as he lived out the great commandment: Love God, and love your neighbor.

Jesus' model for mission was therefore an invitation to relationship—with God and with others. The disciples were in deep relationship with Jesus as they followed him wherever he went, wherever he ate, and wherever he slept. And as the disciples followed Jesus, they grew in their relationship with one another as well. The disciples were an impossible variety (composed of fishermen, tax collectors, political extremists and Pharisees) and yet they sat in one table gathered around Jesus Christ.

That is why later in the book of Acts and in the early church, many were attracted to the peculiar community of Christ's followers. Anyone was loved and welcomed in the church whether Jew or Gentile, male or female, slave or free. As people were being welcomed in the name of Jesus Christ, people believed.

This is how integral relationships are in disciple-making. It started with Jesus

and a few, and then he mentored twelve, who mentored others too. Even Billy Graham, who was known to preach to crowds of thousands, recognized this. He said, "Christ, I think, set the pattern. He spent most of his time with twelve men. He didn't spend it with a great crowd. In fact, every time he had a great crowd it seems to me that there weren't too many results. The great results, it seems to me, came in his personal interviews and in the time he spent with the twelve."

This is why we emphasize disciple-making in our Growth Groups. Beyond events and crowds, we are to develop discipleship relationships that help us grow in our love for God and neighbor. Through disciple-making groups we are able to gather in community and be witnesses, because it is together that we are able to demonstrate a bond that only Jesus can make. Through these communities we go out to the world together, inviting our *oikos* (our family, friends, and workmates), because it is when we are together that people can experience a glimpse of the love that the triune God offers. As it is said John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



ON THE MOVE

OFW Missions Conference & Diaspora Summit
 October 24-25 (Wed-Thu), 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
 here at GCF (Audi A and other rooms)
 Fee: Php 2,500 (meals and materials included)
 Tickets available at the event dates.
 Please text **0998 578 7640** for more info.



I STILL DO

GCF Ortigas Couples' Retreat 2018
 November 3-4 (Sat-Sun) at CCT Tagaytay
 Fee: Php 2,000 per couple (slots are limited)
 Please text **0917 532 7725** to register, then
 pay to confirm.



BUDGET BY THE BOOK

YA Talk on biblical money management
 Speaker: Pastor BJ Sebastian
 Nov. 10 (Sat), 2:00-4:00 p.m., Youth Center
 Everyone is invited to attend.
 Please text **0917 532 7741** to register.



CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

There is joy in serving Jesus!
 The Chancel Choir invites church members
 to consider serving the Lord through singing.
 Rehearsal schedules: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m.
 (Sun). Please contact Josh Capule at **0915**
601 1211 if you're interested.



GGEX EXTREME

*featuring How to Make Decisions You Won't
 Regret (Lessons on David's Life)*
All adults without GG are invited.
 Nov. 18 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 Free lunch and material will be provided.
 Please register at the booth at the lobby.
 Registration is **free** but **limited to first 200**.

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving
 to God by Ramona Almiréz, the Messiah College and an
 anonymous donor. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on
 how to participate in this ministry.*

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express (Mixed)

*Topic: Counting the Real Cost of
 Being A Disciple*
 Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Rm. B124 (Growth Group
 Center)

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples
 Starting on September 30 (Sun)
 9:30-11:00 a.m., Rm. B508

Spark Growth Group

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Seniors' Room

Life in Technicolor

*support group for cancer patients
 and survivors*
 Every 3rd Sunday of the month
 12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers

*support group for those under
 any kind of addiction*
 Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any
 of the small groups above, fill out
 the tear-off form of this bulletin,
 drop it in the offering bag, or
 submit it at the Growth Group
 booth at the lobby. For more
 information, you can text or call
 us at **0917 532 1921**.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / October 2018

	October Budget	Received, Oct. 1 to 17	January to October Budget	Received, Jan. 1 to Oct. 17
General Fund	9,505,598	3,165,768	87,822,514	73,395,190
Missions Fund	927,000	277,683	9,270,000	8,001,289

Why are short-term mission trips important?

BY THE CONNECT WETFOOT TEAM

There are those who think that short-term mission trips are merely spiritualized tourism and are therefore a waste of time and resources.

They argue that if there is little evidence of obeying the Great Commission at home, it



is impossible to suddenly have that desire in another country. And so they believe that short-term mission trips have no real lasting impact.

However, in 2016, Mission To The World, a mission-sending agency, reported that between 2010 and 2016, 84% of new long-term missionaries had previously served in a one to two week mission trip prior to signing up for long-term mission service. The short-term mission trip had a tremendous impact on a large percentage of those new missionaries.

Even here in GCF, short-term mission trips have helped some GCFers in clarifying their thinking about their role in world missions.

We see that if done correctly, short-term mission trips become a relatively safe way to gain experience and a heart for the Great Commission. And so the seven of us from Connect Ministry have individually decided to join Wetfoot for that very purpose.

From October 23 to November 7, we will be in Chiang Rai, Thailand to help a missionary family minister to the Tai Yuan people group. There are more than 7 million of them living in Northern Thailand. 97% of them are devout Buddhists, while only 0.2% are evangelical Christians. There is a lot of work to be done if we are to bring the gospel to the unreached and the unengaged Tai Yuan.

This is something that cannot be done by human strength. But with God's grace and strength, nothing is impossible. And we are expecting great things from Him. And

This is something that cannot be done by human strength.

this is the reason why we plead that you remember us, especially in your prayers.

We want our church to be part of this. If you are interested to know more about us, pray with us, or partner with us, please contact us through **0947 328 5357** ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Hills of Jordan (pixabay.com). "So [Jacob] fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead." The biblical land of Gilead, being located east of Jordan River, is now wholly inside the territory of the Kingdom of Jordan.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we
SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **20/21 October 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory” *(Isaiah 6:3)*. **He requires holiness of us as well:** “Be holy, for I am holy” *(1 Peter 1:16)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *(Romans 3:23)*. **Sin demands a penalty:** “For the wages of sin is death” *(Romans 6:23)*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” *(Romans 5:8)*. **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God” *(1 Peter 3:18)*. **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them” *(2 Corinthians 5:18)*.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” *(Romans 10:9)*.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.