

The Next Generation > Genesis 35:1-29

35:1-4 God calls Jacob to fulfill his vow and return to worship Him at Bethel (**Genesis 28:19-22**). Responding to this call, Jacob orders his household to embrace the holiness that God requires: they are to cease worshipping foreign gods and to purify themselves.

35:5-8 On the way, the Lord protects Jacob and his family from the surrounding nations (**Genesis 34:30**), and they arrive safely at Bethel. We start to see the massive changes that are quickly coming with the death of Deborah, Rebekah's nurse.

35:9-15 God once more appears to Jacob and reminds him of his new identity: he is no longer Jacob, but Israel. As Israel, he is (and shall) be the heir of the promises of God that were first given to Abraham. Jacob responds with worship.

35:16-29 Yet, as encouraging as these first scenes have been, God's people often struggle when earthly life seems to be going well. Here, we read of the death of Rachel when Benjamin is born, of Reuben's wicked relationship with Bilhah, and of the death of Jacob's father Isaac.

Context: We are wrapping up the story of Jacob and passing the baton to the next generation who will carry forth God's promises.

Aim: God's continued faithfulness must be seen – especially with the backdrop of ongoing sin and family strife.

Gospel: The Lord's promises do not fail with time.

Applications: God will fulfill His promises. Do you trust Him to do so? How will you pass His Word to the next generation?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
