



SUNDAY MESSAGE: FROM THE WOMB

In our initial Sunday message together, we got our first look at Jacob, and what a first impression we are given! From before he was born, there are things about Jacob that we see. We are introduced to his striving and scheming pretty quickly in the story. We can see a lot of ourselves in the story, because these things in Jacob's heart are ultimately part of the human condition, but the story shows us something even greater. No matter what our flaws or failures may be, God's relentless pursuit of us is not dependent on our merits. You can catch this message on our YouTube Channel or on the Word of Grace Podcast.

LADDER SESSION: FAMILY OF ORIGIN

Just like Jacob, we all have character traits and a nature that is unique... our personalities, our gifts and our dreams are one-of-a-kind. According to the Bible, we also have a sinful nature that desires what is contrary to the will of God. People have asked the question for hundreds of years when a strong character trait arises - "is this nature or nurture, the way you're wired or something that has been instilled in you?" Often the answer is more of a "both/and" than "either/or" and we see the same with Jacob. From the womb, Jacob has a striving, driven nature, but he also is taught to be a schemer. We also have things, good and bad, that are in our nature. Our spiritual and emotional hand-me-downs can be sources of strength or challenges to overcome, but God's desire is not to eliminate our family connection, but to redeem it. Don't miss the Ladder Session on YouTube or the Podcast.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. What are your hand-me-downs from your Family of Origin?
2. What do you think God wants to do with those things in your story?
3. What does it mean to you to be part of God's family?

NOTES:

FURTHER STUDY:

1. Whatever your Family of Origin looks like, God's desire is to bring you into His own family of New Creations. Check out **John 1:12** and **Ephesians 2:19**.
2. As we study the life of Jacob, there are so many similarities to the famous parable of Jesus - the Prodigal Son. God's relentless love is on full display, in both stories, and you can read **Luke 15** for encouragement today.
3. A great read about God's heart, check out **The Prodigal God** by Tim Keller