



Welcome!

SERIES: PLOT TWIST

Today's Message: *A Long Way From Where I Started*
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: God of blessing and transformation, you were with Jacob from his beginning to his end. You were with him in his good and bad moments. You guided his steps, his stumbles, and his stops. Be with us as we move, grow, decide, struggle, and strive with you and one another in our journey through life. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What is a mistake that you would never take back? Why?

INTRODUCTION: We see where we are and where we've been, God sees our entire journey. Giving up control is never easy, but sometimes it might be the only way forward. Ultimately, our efforts to control our destinies and manipulate our surroundings will never get us to where we are really meant to go and where we really yearn to be. Today we focus on Jacob's journey with God, and how God twisted the plot of his life to get him to where he was supposed to be. He ends up a long way from where he started up.

SCRIPTURE: Read Hebrew 11:21 and Genesis 32

DISCUSSION:

1. What stood out in today's message? What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today?
2. Jacob's story opens with a "womb war." He is born as a twin, arriving shortly after his brother Esau, holding on to Esau's heel. That experience became a metaphor for him because he spent most of his life trying to get ahead of others. Share one significant early memory you have. How has your life been shaped by that experience?
3. Jacob's desire for control led him to conspire with his mother and deceive his father and brother. Is lying ever a good idea? Talk about how many different ways there are to lie. Jacob's lie results in separation and alienation in his family. Where have you seen the effect of lies?
4. It's significant that Jacob is renamed Israel after his encounter with the angel at Peniel. It reminded him of his struggle with God. In what ways have you ever struggled with God? About what things?
5. Anticipating a reunion with his brother Esau, Jacob is afraid. Note the strategies he uses to try to alleviate his fears, and whether or not they work? How do you manage your fears?



Welcome!

SERIES: PLOT TWIST

Today's Message: *A Long Way From Where I Started*
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

6. How can we recognize when we've put too much confidence in our own plans and cleverness and not enough trust in the Lord?
7. Have you ever "wrestled" with God? About what? What was the outcome? Jacob left his encounter with God with a limp for life. What "limps" do you have in your own life and journey of faith? Do they help you trust in God, or do you often find yourself continuing to wrestle?
8. If you could pick a name that describes your relationship with God, what would it be?

CHALLENGE: Jacob's story shows his transformation from a full-on deceiver to a man struggling to do the right thing, stay faithful, and walk in God's promise. What about his story connects with your life today?

SERVE: Pray over Hebrews 11:21 this week. Praise God for God's work of transformation and grace in your life. Take a moment to reflect on your start. Pause to consider how God has sustained you up until this moment. Listen: when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. Respond. Write it down, live it out, give God praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



WWW.MYSPBC.ORG • 804.643.4000

Welcome!

SERIES: PLOT TWIST

Today's Message: A Long Way From Where I Started
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

We Care!

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE.

As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org

SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org

Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org

Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org

Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org

Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org

Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org

Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*