

Alley Rundown—September 25th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Weighed Down (Jacob and Esau's Reconciliation) • *Genesis 31:3; 32:3-32; 33:1-17*

Today's Key Question: What do people worry about?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust God even when you're worried

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 (NirV)*

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey, hey, hey! It's so great to see so many of you today. Since the beginning of August, we've been traveling through God's One Big Story. Remember, in the beginning, God created a good world. But all of that changed when sin entered the garden. Nevertheless, God had a plan to bless the whole world through one family—Abraham's! Though he was old, God gave Abraham a son named Isaac, who grew up to have a family of his own. Isaac had twin sons named Esau and Jacob, who didn't exactly get along. Jacob tricked Esau out of his birthright and a special blessing! As a result, Esau planned to kill Jacob! To save his life, Jacob fled hundreds of miles away to live with his uncle. He ended up living there for more than 20 years!”

“Over the years, Jacob's family and wealth grew. Goats, camels, and donkeys all flourished under Jacob's care. Jacob eventually married and had kids of his own. Eventually, God gave Jacob some instructions that would move him away from his uncle. God said,”

Open the Bible to Genesis 31:3b (NirV) and read.

“*Go back to your father's land and to your relatives. I will be with you.*”

“Jacob needed to move his family back home to the land of his father, Isaac. However, Jacob was worried. He didn't know if Esau would still be angry with him. But God also reminded Jacob he wouldn't be journeying alone—God would be with him!”

“Jacob packed up the family and hit the road. Playing it safe, he sent messengers ahead with word for Esau. The message from Jacob said . . . “I've been staying with our uncle! I'm a wealthy guy now! I hope I can please you!

“The message was delivered! When the messengers returned, they had an update for Jacob about Esau! They explained . . . “Your brother got the message! He coming to meet you . . . with 400 men!

“Yikes! That was a lot of men! Jacob did not believe Esau was sending a welcome party. He feared his brother was coming to wipe out his family and wealth. Jacob had to think quickly. Out of fear, Jacob divided his family and wealth into two groups. This would allow one group to escape if Esau attacked.

“Then Jacob took a moment to pray and asked God for help. He prayed,”

Open the Bible to Genesis 32:9-12 (NirV) and read.

“*You are the God of my grandfather Abraham. You are the God of my father Isaac. LORD, you are the one who said to me, “Go back to your country and your relatives. Then I will give you success.” You have been very kind and faithful to me. But I'm not worthy of any of this. When I crossed this Jordan River, all I had was my walking stick. But now I've become two camps. Please save me from the hand of my brother Esau. I'm afraid he'll come and attack me and the mothers with their children. But you have said, “I will surely give you success. I will make your children as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. People will not be able to count them.”*”

“Jacob was clinging to God’s promises. That’s what we can do as well. Let’s dive in a little more with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)

“For Jacob to push past his worry and face his brother, he needed complete trust in God! Jacob recognized God had a plan for his life. Even though he didn’t know the details, Jacob obeyed God’s instructions.

“So many of us have difficult relationships at home, on the sports teams, or at school. I don’t know anyone who enjoys dealing with difficult people who treat them poorly. It’s terrible when that happens. And it’s easy for us to worry in those situations. When Jacob faced an uncertain future, he did something WAY more helpful than panicking. He remembered to talk to God. How Jacob responded gives us a picture of what it might look like to depend on God when we’re facing worries of all sizes. When you look at the life of Jesus, He did the same thing! Jesus talked to God when He knew He’d be arrested. Even after Jesus was arrested, He trusted His Father would be with Him through it all.

“Talking to God is a huge part of trusting God! Maybe your best friend stopped hanging out with you because of something you did. You can ask God to give you the words to help you apologize. Or you got selected to join a team with none of your friends. You can ask God to give you the confidence to make new buddies! Everyone will face different worries and fears. But every worry and fear, whether big or little, is an opportunity to trust God! As you prepare to head to our Small Groups, think about this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**What do people worry about?** That’s a good question! People worry about all sorts of things, most of which never happen the way they might imagine. You’ll talk more about this with your Small Group. Before we head out, how about we pray and ask God to for help with our worries? Let’s all remember to trust God no matter what. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

Who?:

Eli and Mandy Garcia
Vida Nueva Ministries
Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Remember, when you bring your offering in, you are helping people in Mexico learn how much Jesus loves them!

Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or school, but with our help, our mission partners have built an entire set of schools. Kids just like you can come and learn- and they receive meals and hear about Jesus, too!