

Read the second chapter from *The Story* (pgs 11-22) or Genesis 12-35 in one sitting. Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. When God gives His first promised blessing to Abram (page 11 or Genesis 12:1-9), who else does He say will ultimately be blessed through him? How is that universal blessing fulfilled in Jesus Christ (the Seed of Abraham—see Galatians 3:16,19)?

2. Abram's trust in God's promise (page 13 or Genesis 15:1-6) was "credited to him as righteousness." How is salvation through Jesus a similar "righteousness through faith?" (See Romans 4:1-5, 9-25; Galatians 3:29.)

Day Two

1. Abraham had to wait 25 years for the promised son, Isaac (page 15 or Genesis 21:1-5). What is a long wait God has allowed, or is allowing, you to endure? What helps you keep your faith?

2. After waiting so long for Isaac, Abraham was asked to give him back to God (page 16 or Genesis 22:1-19). In what sense do we possess—but not possess—what God graciously gives us?

Day Three

1. Jacob's name change was significant (pages 20 and 21 or Genesis 32:22-32) because "Deceiver" was now "God-wrestler." Though we may not have new names, how is the new nature we receive from Christ similar to Jacob's "rebirth" experience? (See also Isaiah 62:2 and Revelation 2:17.)

2. Part of God's work to reshape Jacob's character was to reconcile him to his brother, Esau (page 20 or Genesis 33:1-11). In the same way, God wants us to be at peace in our relational world (Romans 12:18 and Matthew 5:43-47). Where does God want you to make peace? What is the next step you can take this week?