

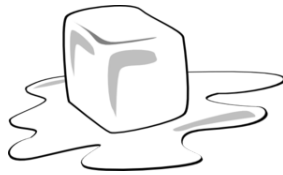
Home Group Study Guide

Sermon Title: What's in a Name?

Sermon Series: Be You

Sermon Scripture: Genesis 35:16-20

Sermon Synopsis: Sometimes our walk with God can be met with an unexpected turn. On the day that Rachel was giving birth to her second son, she would end up dying from the complication of the birth. The one whom Jacob loved was dead. It's been a wild ride following this insecure, broken man, but we are encouraged by his maturity in this situation. He refuses to be downcast the rest of his life. He will not let this situation get the best of his family. At times, we are dealt with blows from this world, but we will not let this world get the best of us. Things that would take other people down, will not take us down. We will move on. Knowing who we are, and what our future is as the children of God, by His grace, we will move on.



ICEBREAKER

Pastor Zach shared some crazy (but real!) names, including Abcde, Phelony, Abstinence, Olive Garden, Anna..., Kale & Chairish (oops!). What is the weirdest/strangest name you've ever heard? Or met?

Read the Sermon Synopsis out loud.

What's something you've learned over the past four weeks of the "Be You" sermon series about Jacob?

How has this sermon series impacted you personally?



THINK & READ

Have someone read Genesis 35:16-18

Jacob lost his wife, Rachel, but was given a new son, Benjamin. A moment of crippling grief coupled with great joy. Pastor Zach said, “Something is always dying while something else is coming alive.” Where has this been true in your life?

Have someone read Romans 8:28

What does this verse mean? How in the world can God use all things (even disease, abuse, loss, or death) for good?

Rachel’s dying request was to name her son Ben-Oni, which means “Son of my Sorrow.” However, in the Hebrew language, Ben-Oni can also be interpreted “Son of my Strength.” Perhaps real strength is only ever born out of real sorrow. Perhaps the strongest people you will ever meet have also experienced the greatest sorrow. Perhaps the greatest trials that you’ve ever gone through in your life are the very things that God used to fortify the greatest strength in your life.

How has God ever turned a sorrow in your life to strength?

Jesus is God, so He has unlimited power and strength. Yet He was called “a man of sorrows” in the Bible because He willingly went to the cross and died for you and me. How does Jesus’ example of strength during adversity and sorrow encourage you?

Jacob refused to name his son Ben-Oni. Instead, Jacob named his son Benjamin, which means “Son of my right hand” or “Son of Blessing.”

Have you ever been labeled as something or called a name? What was it?

Jacob as the father had the right to name his son. In the same way, you have a new name in God. What does God the Father want to name you today? (e.g. Forgiven, Loved, Redeemed...)

Have someone read Genesis 35:19-21

Jacob set up a pillar, but Israel (Jacob’s new name) moved on. That’s the new you. That’s the part of you that abuse couldn’t destroy, that neglect couldn’t negate, that hard times couldn’t break, that people couldn’t steal, that the devil couldn’t take away, that trouble couldn’t change.

Is there something that you are needing to move on from today?



PRAYER

Take individual prayer requests from those your Home Group. Then take some time to pray out loud for the people in your Home Group.