





LIVING AN UNFOCUSED LIFE



Selfie-Centered

We've been examining the life of Jacob

He is definitely the driver that did not want to drive the car the way it was intended

He lived his life focused on himself

It left a pile of burned up relationships

Today we are going to look at a moment in Jacobs life when he tried it God's way.



Bethel

**Two weeks ago we looked
at Jacob's first trip to Bethel**

There he had a "dream"

There he had a meeting with God

God made him promises

Jacob gave God conditions



**God-Centered
not Selfie Centered
Back to Bethel
(Genesis 35:1-9)**



Go where God says Go

The Instruction: Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.

The Response: Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan



Do what God says Do

Settle there

Build an altar there to God

Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan. There he built an altar, and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there that God revealed himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.



Do what God says Do

Jacob and all the people came with him

When he got there he built an alter

Altars are about sacrifice

**Note God did not give Jacob a set
of specs for the alter**

**Important because do it God's way
does not mean cookie cutter**



Two Important Side Notes

**God's direction gets God's protection:
Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.**

**Going God's way does not mean life is perfect:
Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak outside Bethel.
So it was named Allon Bakuth**



Get rid of your Selfie gods

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem.



Get rid of your Selfie gods

**The first thing I find interesting is
God did not ask for this**

**Jacob gave thought about how he
and his family were living**

Jacob took action on what he discovered as wrong

This is a huge step for our friend Jacob



Taking the right Steps

Make God, God!

Purify Yourself

Change Your Clothes

Commit to the instruction God gave you

Praise God



This was not a moment but a turning point

So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem.



The Turning Point

**Just so you know Jacob's life would
still be full of struggles**

Just so you know Jacob would still struggle with sin

**But here is the moment when God was no longer the
God of his fathers, he was the God of Jacob**

Have you had THAT moment?



Allow God to Change You

After Jacob returned from Paddan Aram, God appeared to him again and blessed him. God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel” So he named him Israel.

God appeared to him again

He Blessed Him

He gave him a new direction



A photograph of a car body in a paint booth. The car is green and yellow, with a large black archway in the center. In the foreground, there are two large white bags. The text "Whose way are you doing this?" is overlaid in white with a black outline.

Whose way are you doing this?