

# Genesis—Sunday Morning Series Overview

## *Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope*

*Genesis* is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horror of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

### APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:*

**Put Away Your Idols.** What are those things that you tend to give the devotion that only rightly belongs to God Himself?

**Trust that God Is Enough.** He has shown Himself faithful to us. He can handle all our challenges and threats. Look to Him in faith.

**Pray for Our FCCW Family.** We all struggle to live out this faith in Christ. So let's pray for one another. Ask the Lord to embolden us in this daily faith walk.

NOTES:

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional  
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren  
September 15th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 35: 1 – 29

## Jacob's Renewal

1. God Relentlessly Pursues His People.
2. Jacob Answers God's Call to Renewal and Leads His Family.
3. Christ Pursued Us All the Way to the Cross.

After Jacob's failure upon returning to the Promised Land, God graciously continues His pursuit of the covenant family. He calls them to repentance and renewed faith in the covenant promises. He sustains them and goes with them to Bethel where they are reminded of God's faithfulness and their need to follow *El Shaddai—God Almighty* by faith always.

Evening Service:

Pastor Philip Adams  
1 Timothy 3: 1 – 16

## The Mystery of Godliness

1. How Do We Know This Mystery?
2. What Do We Know?
3. What Is the Mystery of Godliness?

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

If your approach to God can be characterized as, “Oh no, I’ve really messed this up. I sure hope my dad doesn’t find out” instead of “Yikes! I’ve really messed this up; I need to talk to my dad” then this passage is for you. Jacob’s whole life was being a liar and a cheat. Then when he was really afraid to face his brother on the way home, God showed Him mercy and it looked like he finally got his act together. Only to blow it again. Then this happens ...

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

### Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 35:1-29; First John 5:19-21**. DISCUSS, How did God pursue Jacob? How did Jacob respond? What is the connection between renewal and idols? Why? PRAY thanking God for His relentless pursuit of us.

### Sunday PM

READ tonight’s passage: **First Timothy 3:1-16**. DISCUSS, What is the mystery of Godliness? What are we supposed to do? PRAISE God for His gift to us in Christ.

### Monday

READ **Genesis 35:1-4**. DISCUSS, How does God respond to Jacob’s failure at Shechem (Ch. 34)? How does Christ show us this same mercy? PRAY for God to show us how Christ is absolutely trustworthy. Ask Him to show our neighbors this peace.

### Tuesday

READ **Genesis 35:5-15**. DISCUSS, How did God provide for them on their way to Bethel? How does this reveal their lack of faith expressed in 34:30? Why does God show them such mercy? BEFRIEND someone today by trusting God’s provision for you. PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for ways we trust our own efforts more than You. Teach us to trust You fully and completely.”

### Wednesday

READ **Genesis 35:16-22**. DISCUSS, Why do things like dying in childbirth and sexual assault continue to take place even among God’s people in renewal? PRAY, Ask God to enable us to trust Him in difficult circumstances.

### Thursday

READ **Genesis 34:23-29**. DISCUSS, In this family snapshot, what do we see of God’s faithfulness? Given what we know about his family why is this remarkable? How is that true with us also? PRAY, “Jesus, empower us to love our families without compromising what You have called us to do.”

### Friday

READ **Genesis 35:1-29; First John 5:19-21**. DISCUSS, What has God been teaching from these passages this week? PRAY thanking the Lord for His faithfulness to us.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. Do what you can *today* so that you will be less rushed tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 36-37**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God’s glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area. Pray that He will use us to extend His grace as we celebrate it together.

## First John 5:19 – 21

<sup>19</sup> We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. <sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. <sup>21</sup> Little children, keep yourselves from idols.