



Small Group Sermon Response Questions – Week of 6/22/14
Genesis 34-35 – “Arise, Go Up To Bethel And Dwell There” (Pt. 2)
(*God is faithfully building and preserving a distinct
company of worshippers for Himself.*)

- 6:30 to 6:45 — Meet & Greet / Conversation
 - 6:45 to 7:30 — Sermon Response Time (?’s 1–6)
 - 7:30 to 8:00 — Smaller Groups for ?’s 7–8 and Prayer
1. Discuss the challenges, dangers, and rewards of studying Old Testament narrative passages with an expectation that they will apply to our individual lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 15:1-7)
 2. Re-read 1 Peter 2:9-12. How have you recently been led/tempted to believe that true holiness is a bad thing?
 3. The Desperate Conditions In Which God Does This
 - a. Discuss Simeon and Levi’s sin of unjust vengeance and profane dishonesty regarding circumcision, and how it damaged their holiness. (Consider Genesis 17:9-14.) Relate this to our own approach to baptism, the Lord’s Table, and the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Does it make sense to you how Jacob was at risk of settling into complacent assimilation with the pagan Canaanites? Why or why not?
 4. The Gracious Means By Which God Does This
 - a. The sermon asserted that suffering is one of God’s gracious means for making His people holy. Discuss the *differences* and *similarities* between suffering that is a consequence of personal sin, suffering that is a part of living in a sinful world, and suffering that is a direct result of opposition to the gospel.
 - b. How are you or others you care about suffering right now—for any of the above reasons? How might God be working through this to make His people more distinctly His?
 5. The Glorious End To Which God Does This
 - a. Discuss the connection between God’s almightiness and our holiness. Why would He identify Himself as *El Shaddai* for Abraham (17:1) and Jacob (35:11) when making these remarkable promises to them?
 6. What other initial reflections, questions, or evaluation do you have regarding the sermon? What have you seen of God, yourself, the gospel, and/or the life of faith?
 7. How has God used His word to powerfully call you out as one of His people? (Testimony time!)
 8. What has God been teaching you in your own personal study lately?