

JACOB



Manitoulin Youth Camp 2025 Teen Workbook

Dear Camper,

We are looking forward to another great year studying God's word at Manitoulin Youth Camp this summer, God Willing. What a blessing it is to once again be returning to Manitoulin Island to enjoy time around God's Word, renew old friendships and make new ones and forget about the cares and pressures of this world!

This year we have a well-known but fascinating study in the story of Jacob. Jacob's life spanned his rivalry with his brother Esau all the way to his blessings of his sons down in the land of Egypt right before his death. In between he had a very difficult family life, experienced the ups and downs of a life serving God and had to learn to trust in God, definitely someone we can relate to! Enjoy this study and through it all appreciate this man of faith. Through it all he never lost his keen desire to inherit the covenants of promise and at the end made his sons swear that they would not bury him in Egypt but bury him in the same cave as his grandparents Abraham and Sarah, his parents Isaac and Rebekah and his wife Leah in the land of promise, awaiting the day of resurrection and inheriting those promises he so longed for. Enjoy!

We also will be continuing our group workshop classes where we will be focusing on putting the key "life lesson" principles from Jacob into practice in our lives. As always, we also will be studying five important first principle topics including asking ourselves why this is a first principle and how does it impact my walk to the kingdom.

Please remember that it is important to do a good job on your workbook and pre-camp assignments. Not only will this allow you to fully participate in all the many fun activities Manitoulin Youth Camp has to offer, but also will allow you to get a lot more out of the classes and take home lessons that will stick with you for a lifetime!

This workbook is divided into three sections:

- 1) Daily readings and memory verses
- 2) The Jacob workbook
- 3) First principles workbook

If you have questions about the teen program this year please send a note to Uncle Dan and Aunt Nicki Styles at dnstyles@hotmail.com.

Make sure to get started right away and enjoy these exciting studies. We look forward to seeing you at Youth Camp, God Willing.

Uncle Jason Hensley – Main Speaker, Jacob Class

Uncle Jona Lawson – Workshop Class

Uncle Steve and Aunt Realle MacFarlane – Teen Program Co-Coordination

Uncle Dan and Aunt Nicki Styles – Teen Program Co-Coordination, First Principles Class

1. Daily Bible Readings and Memory Verses

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the book of Genesis each day at camp. You will do these readings with your camp group and practice the memory verses. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings the next morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week. This year we will be reading a number of supplemental or 'read only' sections at camp that will support our practical application workshop section. You will not be quizzed on these passages on the morning quizzes but they will help build on and reinforce the spiritual lessons from the life and times of Jeremiah.

Monday: Jacob's early life

Readings: Gen. 25:19-34 (Jacob's birth, pottage); Gen. 27:1-29, 41-46 (Deceiving Isaac); Read Only Gen. 27:30-40 (Esau comes for blessing)

Daily Principle: Love the Inheritance

Memory Verse: Genesis 25:23 – *And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.*

Tuesday: Jacob in Haran

Readings: Gen. 28:1-22 (Ladder vision); Gen. 31:1-18 (Haran and Laban); Teen Read Only Gen. 29:16-30:24 (Jacob's marriage & first 12 children)

Daily Principle: God is Present

Memory Verse: Genesis 28:15 – *And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.*

Wednesday: Jacob becomes Israel

Readings: Gen. 32:1-32 (Prepares for Esau, wrestles with angel); Gen. 33:1-11 (Meets Esau)

Daily Principle: Ask Why

Memory Verse: Genesis 32:28 – *And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*

Thursday: Covenant Renewal

Readings: Gen. 35:1-29 (Repentance, Benjamin's birth, Rachel's death)

Daily Principle: God is Good

Memory Verse: Genesis 35:11 – *And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;*

Friday: Restoration & Death

Readings: Gen. 37:1-11 (Joseph's early life); Gen. 46:1-7 (Jacob to Egypt); Gen. 49:29-33 (Jacob dies); Gen. 50:1-13 (Jacob is buried)

Daily Principle: God is Working

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:21 – *By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

2. Jacob Workbook

Dear Teen,

Welcome to the Manitoulin Youth Camp workbook for 2025! This year, we're going to be studying the life of Jacob—a life with stories that you've probably heard before, but with details and twists that might surprise you. All in all, Jacob's story presents us not only with a meaningful life, but with an understanding of the greatness of God and His grace.

I'd like to begin this workbook by commending you for your desire to attend youth camp. Working through a workbook like this isn't necessarily easy, and so your willingness to do it is so exciting. There is no other book like the Bible. Your love for it, shown by your desire to go to a camp like this which revolves around the Bible, is beautiful. Never lose that desire.

Next, I want to give you an idea of the framework of this workbook. To me, studying the Bible can be divided into three main steps:

1. Facts
2. Principles
3. Applications

When we try to understand the Bible, we work through each of these steps in order. If we skip one of the steps, we struggle to understand what's really being said, and sometimes develop crooked conclusions. That's not good.

Therefore, we'll work through each of these steps together in our workbook. As we start each specific step, I'll explain what it means and how to do it.

Finally, I wrote this workbook in the way that I did so that it would benefit you. I've already done the study, so this doesn't really help me. Therefore, take your time when going through it. Think about things. Don't just rush to get it done. That's not the point. If I wanted something that you could get done quickly, I'd just make this a few pages. The point is for you to think about the Bible, and to really think about it—to think about it deeply. So, do that. When you write down answers, challenge yourself to give a thorough answer.

If at any point you'd like to contact me, I'd also love to hear from you. You can email me at jason.n.ruthie@gmail.com. Feel free to just say hi, to ask for help, to tell me the weather where you live (seriously, I actually find that to be fascinating—there's no weather where I live), or to say what you liked or didn't like about the workbook. Really, I think hearing from you is fun.

And with that, may God use this time you spend in His work to help you grow to be more like Jesus. Because truly, that's what this is all about.

Uncle Jason Hensley
Simi Hills, California

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Jacob Overview

Sometimes when we do Bible study, we feel overwhelmed. We don't really know where to start, and thus, might just spend a lot of time figuring out what we're trying to do. So, here's a suggestion to avoid that overwhelmed feeling: figure out the goals for your study.

You might wonder, though, how to figure out your goals. Can't you just say, "My goal is to learn stuff!" Sure, you could say something like that, but that's not a very useful goal. So, if you learned what Jacob's name meant, and you didn't know that before, does that mean that you met your goal? We don't want a goal that lasts just a few minutes. So, one of the best ways to come up with your goals is to ask questions.

However, before we can ask questions, we need to prime our minds and realize all the things that we already do know about Jacob. You've maybe heard before of a KWL chart (or maybe not; it stands for "Know, Want to Know, and Learned"). We're not going to do one of those. Instead, we're just going to do the first part: know. So, here's your first task: come up with 12 things that you know about Jacob (I filled out the first column on David just to give you an example; notice that I didn't write anything ridiculous like "he's a man" —so don't do that):

What I Know about David	What I Know about Jacob
1. Born in Bethlehem	
2. Became the king of Israel	
3. Was a shepherd	
4. Was hated by his brothers	
5. Fought Goliath	
6. Killed Goliath with 5 stones	
7. Had a son named Solomon	
8. Reigned as king for 40 years	
9. Stole Uriah's wife	

10. Wrote many psalms	
11. Was the Lord Jesus's ancestor	
12. Played music for Saul	

Now that you've got yourself thinking, you're ready to start asking questions, and thus, making goals. One of the best supports I've found for prompting goal-setting questions is called a "Noticings and Wonderings Chart."¹ Check it out:

Noticings and Wonderings:

Directions: What do you notice? What do you wonder? As you read, react to the material and jot down or sketch what you notice and what questions arise.

Noticings	Wonderings
This is just an example. You don't need to do anything here. Just enjoy the chart.	This is also just an example. Don't do anything but enjoy the chart.

Here's how this works: you read a section of the Bible, and as you are reading, you try to come up with two or three points for each box. Let me give you an example. Say that I was reading 1 Samuel 16, since my previous example was about David. Below is how I would fill out one of these charts for 1 Samuel 16:

¹ This chart was adapted from a curriculum company called ReDesign and licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.

Noticings	Wonderings
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. v. 2 - Samuel was afraid that Saul was going to kill him. 2. v. 13 - David was anointed in front of all of his brothers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. v. 4 - Why did the elders of Bethlehem ask Samuel if he came peaceably? Was there something about him that made him look ready for war? 2. v. 6 - Why did Samuel think that Eliab's good looks made him fit to be king?

So, now that I've completed this chart for 1 Samuel 16, I have some really good places to start. I can use any of these noticings and wonderings as my questions. I'll need to do a little work to make the noticings into questions, but it could be easily done. The first noticing could become, "Why was Samuel afraid that Saul was going to kill him?" Basically, after I've filled out this chart, I have four or more goals for my study of this chapter. I want to answer these questions.

If you looked at the table of contents, you might have noticed that we're working through 13 chapters in this study. Don't worry, I'm not going to have you fill out one of these charts for each of these chapters—at least right now. We'll do it slowly so that you don't get overwhelmed. You're welcome.

With that, you now have the foundation for jumping into our study. Good job working through the first few pages—I hope you're looking forward to the rest!

Study 1: Jacob's Early Life (Genesis 25–27)

Jacob's Birth and the Lentil Stew - Genesis 25:19–34

Now that we've seen how the noticings and wonderings chart works, we're going to use one. As we focus on the beginning of Jacob's life, we want to develop our goals. So, read Genesis 25:19–34, and while you do so, see if you can develop two noticings and two wonderings about that chapter:

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

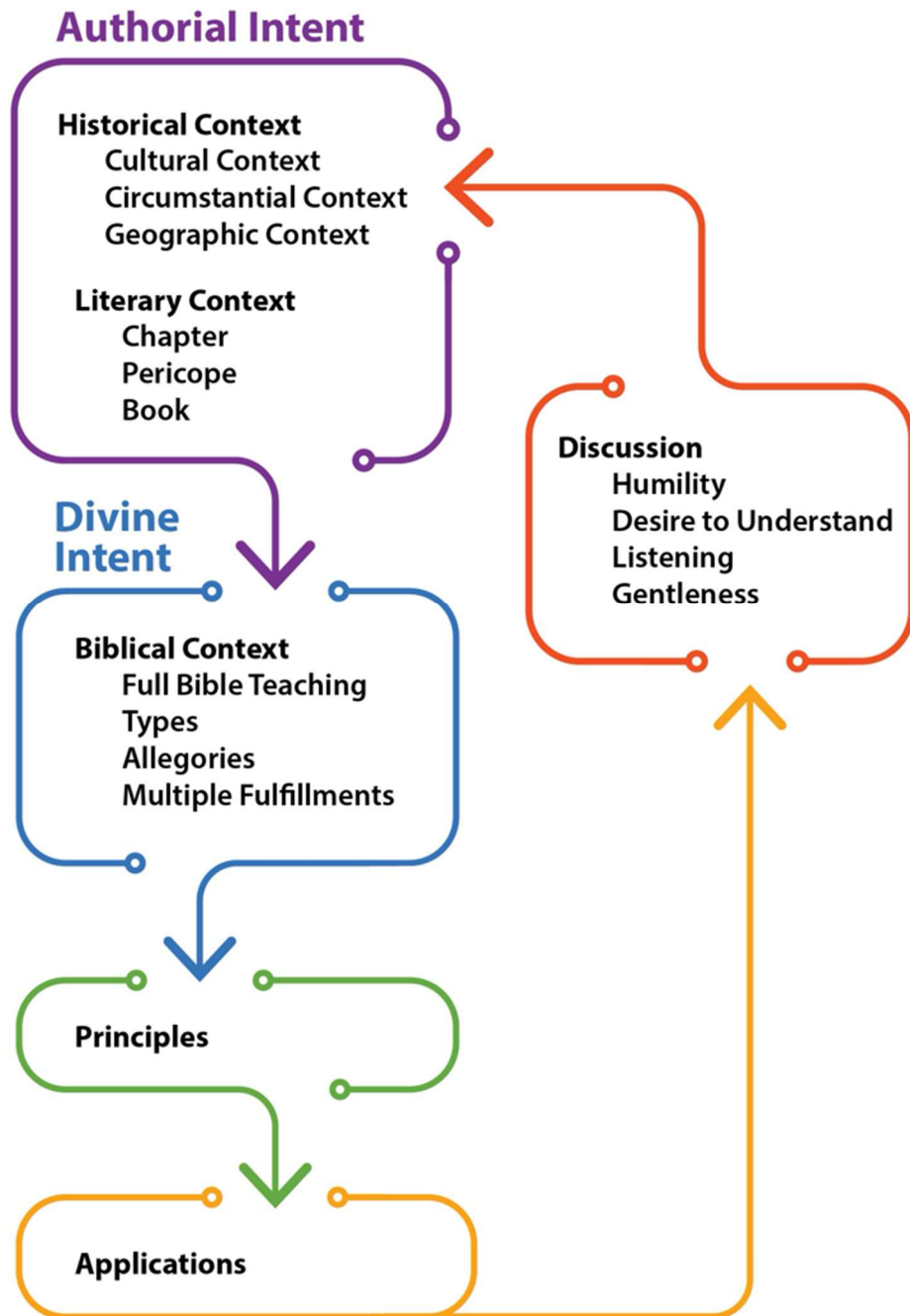
Out of these four thoughts, think about which interests you the most. Now, choose just one that will be your goal for this chapter. When you're finished studying Genesis 25, what question do you want to have answered? Write it down below:

Now that we have our goal for this study, we're ready to get going. Remember the Bible study framework that we discussed at the beginning of this workbook? Here's a reminder:

1. Facts
2. Principles
3. Applications

That's what we are going to do now. Specifically, we're going to work on the first part, facts. Let me present this to you in another way:

The Contextual Method of Biblical Interpretation



The first two boxes, labelled “Authorial Intent” and “Divine Intent”, are step 1, or “Facts”. We’ll spend time looking at these passages in their various contexts in order to develop facts. Once we have done that, we will move on to the next box, principles, then the next one, applications. When we get to youth camp, you’ll get to do the discussion part with me and with your group (but by all means, feel free to do it beforehand too).

So, let’s start with the facts.

Facts for Genesis 25:

Historical Context:

As you may have noticed in the chart above, the first thing we do when finding facts is to think about the historical context. That means that we think about what life was like during Bible times. Specifically, we want to think about how people lived during Genesis 25.

To learn about Bible history, you have a few options. First, you could look up information online, as you would for a project at school. If you decide to do this, though, remember—there’s a lot of wrong and weird stuff online. So, make sure that you’re actually looking at a reputable website to find historical information. Historical websites back up what they are saying with actual sources. The World History Encyclopedia is useful, but Wikipedia is not. Think about research papers that you’ve written for school. When you work on this, you want to use sources that your history teachers would accept. Second, Bible atlases and Bible dictionaries will be helpful. Ralph Gower’s *Manners and Customs of Bible Times* (Chicago: Moody Institute) is also useful. Third, in a number of cases, the Bible itself will have an answer, and you can find it by comparing passages that talk about something similar. You can look at where the same Hebrew word is used elsewhere, or use cross references.² Finally, you may be tempted to use generative AI, like ChatGPT. In that case, I’d council you that generative AI is notoriously wrong on detailed questions like this. In other words, if you use it to provide answers to these questions, you’ll probably get a large number of them incorrect (and you will have learned very little). Don’t do that. And certainly, don’t have it write the answers for you. The whole point of this is for you to get to *think*.

Again, if you feel stuck on something, feel free to email me (jason.n.ruthie@gmail.com). I’m sure that your parents or someone in your ecclesia would also be happy to help.

Here are some questions to get you started on this:

1. v. 20 - Isaac was married at 40 years old. Was that old or young for the time? Prove it.

If you haven’t done this before, reach out to me, your parents, or someone in your ecclesia for guidance in how to do this.

2. v. 20 - Rebekah was the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean (or Syrian). Where is Aram/Syria and how close was it to where Isaac lived (you'll have to figure out where he lived)?

3. v. 21 - Rebekah was barren. Why was barrenness such a big deal in those times?

4. v. 27 - Esau was a hunter and Jacob lived in tents. How did people in those times feel about hunters? How did they feel about people who lived in tents?

5. v. 31 - What was a birthright and why would someone want one?

Literary Context:

The literary context is what is happening around the passage. In this case, we'd want to look at the beginning of Genesis 25, and also Genesis 26, just to get a sense of the overall story.

So, read Genesis 25:1–18 and Genesis 26. Then, write summaries of those sections:

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Biblical Context:

The biblical context refers to how this passage is used elsewhere in the Bible. Oftentimes passages in the Bible will comment on other passages, and this helps us to understand them better. So, think about this:

1. Where is Genesis 25:19–34 referenced anywhere else in the Bible (I’m only aware of one specific place, but maybe you can find more)?

2. How does this other reference help you to understand Genesis 25:19–34? In other words, if you didn’t have this other reference, how might you understand Genesis 25:19–34 differently?

Principles for Genesis 25:

After we’ve put together the facts, we’re ready to think about the principles. This is one of the most important parts because it’s where we take what the Bible says and figure out how it can mean something to us. We don’t just want the Bible to be a bunch of facts. It’s supposed to mean something and change who we are!

So, after finding the facts, we can better understand the story, and thus, we can develop principles. A principle is a timeless truth. For example, “God loves his people” is a principle. That doesn’t change, no matter what millennium it is and no matter what country someone lives in. It’s timeless. By contrast, “Keeping the Sabbath honors God” is not a principle. This was a specific application of a principle (that of dedicating one’s time to God) that applied while the law of Moses was in effect.

Think about Genesis 25:19–34 and see what principles you can uncover. I’ve given you two below. Try to come up with at least one more:

1. v. 21 - God hears our prayers
2. v. 23 - God knows what is going to happen
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 25:

An application is not the same as a principle. Unlike a principle, which is timeless, an application specifically applies to you and your own life. It's how you can live out the principle. For example, I wrote that God hears our prayers as one of the principles above. How does that apply to my life? Here's one way that I live out that principle (or that I can try to live it out if I don't already): I want to end each day with a prayer. Is that what everyone, throughout all time, has needed to do in order to be righteous? No, I'm sure some people prayed at other times instead. But that's one way that the principle can apply to *me*.

So, think about one of the principles that came from Genesis 25:19–34 and then think about how you can live that principle (or how you already do):

Discussion for Genesis 25

Remember, there's one step left in our Contextual Bible Study chart. We want to be able to discuss Scripture. You've already answered a few questions, and those answers will give you things to discuss with each other, but you also want to have some of your own study that you can discuss with others.

So let's go back to your goal. Remember your question from the noticings and wonderings chart? Now that you've looked at the facts, principles, and applications for Genesis 25:19–34, how would you answer your question? In other words, you now have tools to answer your question. How would you answer it? Prove your answer:

The whole idea behind discussion is getting different ideas and modifying your thoughts based on what you hear. So, keep your answer written here, share it with your group members while we're at camp, and be open to changing your ideas if the discussion helps you think of something better. That's one of the beautiful things about being a community—we all help each other to understand!

With that, you've finished your first chapter! I know that we have 12 to go. But this section was longer just because we were learning the structure for contextual bible study. As you get more and more used to this method, you'll find that things start to move slightly quicker.

Deceiving Isaac - Genesis 27

Jacob stealing the blessing and deceiving his father shaped much of his later life. Take a look at Genesis 27 and see if you can come up with two noticings and two wonderings for this chapter:

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Just like we did before, choose one of these four points that will become your goal for the chapter. After studying Genesis 27, what do you want to have learned? Write it down below:

Facts for Genesis 27:

Historical Context:

Now, let's consider some questions related to the historical context of Genesis 27. Again, if you need help, ask one of your parents or an adult in your ecclesia. Or, feel free to email me at jason.n.ruthie@gmail.com

1. v. 4 - Isaac wanted to bless Esau, his firstborn, before he died. Consider other blessings from fathers in the Bible. Why does a father's blessing matter?

1. We've already read Genesis 26 and written a summary of it. So, at this point, how do you think the events of Genesis 26 related to what happened in Genesis 27? What's recorded in Scripture isn't an accident, so the story of Genesis 26 somehow links together with the events of Genesis 27.

[illegible]

Biblical Context:

1. Can you think of any places in the Bible that reference Genesis 27? There's definitely at least one reference to the chapter in the book of Hebrews. See if you can find anything else. How does this reference (or others that you find as well) affect your understanding of what's happening in Genesis 27? Does it reinforce what you were already thinking, or does it take your thoughts in a different direction?

Principles for Genesis 27:

Remember, principles are timeless truths. They can apply to any culture and any age of history. What are some principles that come out of this story? I've given you one to get you started:

1. Deceit destroys a family
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 27

Just like what we did for Genesis 25, take one of the principles that you developed above and apply it to your life. How would this principle change what you do, or how has it already changed what you do?

Discussion for Genesis 27

Now, let's go back to your original question from your noticings and wonderings chart of Genesis 27. How would you answer that question now (make sure to prove your answer)?

Feel free to change your answer here as you talk to people, both in your ecclesia and at camp. We're a community that loves the Bible, so now this gives you something important to talk about with others! Ask them what they think about your answer, or how they would answer the question. If they have a different answer than you, ask them to explain their answer further so that you can better understand (but make sure to do this respectfully).

Study 2: Jacob in Haran (Genesis 28–31)

Jacob at Bethel - Genesis 28

Jacob ran away from the Promised Land and didn't come back for decades. As he ran, he stopped in Bethel. What do you notice and wonder about in this chapter?

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Using your noticings and wonderings, what do you want to have as your goal for studying Genesis 28?

Facts for Genesis 28:

Historical Context:

1. v. 9 - Esau married one of Ishmael's daughters. Why did he do this? Was he trying to frustrate his family or trying to do what his parents wanted? How do you know?

1. How did the events of Genesis 27 affect what happened in Genesis 28? What about the blessing that Isaac gives at the beginning of Genesis? Why do you think Isaac gives Jacob another blessing after already blessing him in chapter 27?

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1. Bethel shows up again in 1 Kings 12. Why do you think Jeroboam chose Bethel as one of the main cities for his idolatry? How do the events of 1 Kings 12 affect your understanding of Genesis 28?

Principles for Genesis 28:

Principles are timeless truths. Here is one that comes from this story. Try to come up with three more:

1. God is everywhere.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 28

Take one of the above principles and apply it to your life. How would you live out this principle today, or how do you already?

Discussion for Genesis 28

Go back now to your original question from your noticings and wonderings. How would you answer that question now? Give proof for your answer.

Don't forget to discuss this question and answer at camp and at your ecclesia!

Jacob and Laban - Genesis 29–31

Jacob's family life was a mess. Read through these three chapters about his life with Laban and his family, writing down what you notice and wonder.

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Look at your noticings and wonderings and develop a goal for studying this section:

Facts for Genesis 29–31:

Historical Context:

1. Genesis 29:18–20 - Jacob became Laban's servant. What did it mean in those days to be a servant?

2. Genesis 29:31 - God opened Leah's womb and shut Rachel's. What did it mean in those days to be barren? What kind of social consequences were connected to barrenness?

3. Genesis 30:14 - What are mandrakes and why are they even part of this story? What do they tell you about Rachel and Leah?

4. Genesis 30:37 - Jacob used poplar, almond, and plane branches to birth spotted sheep. What affect do those kinds of trees have, if any, on sheep?

5. Genesis 31:19 - Rachel stole her father's household gods. What are household gods? Why did Laban have them and why did Rachel want them?

Literary Context:

1. How did the events of Genesis 28 affect what took place in Genesis 29?

2. Think about what took place in Genesis 29 with Jacob marrying Leah and Rachel. Try to find connections between that story and what Jacob does with the sheep in Genesis 30.

3. The events of Genesis 29 and 30 set the stage for Genesis 31. How do they affect our understanding of what happens in Genesis 31?

Biblical Context:

1. This section does not appear to be quoted anywhere else. However, the story of Micah and the Levite in Judges 18 has numerous connections to Genesis 31 when Laban chased down Jacob. Try to find some of these connections. Why do you think they are there? How do these connections help us to better understand Genesis 31?

Principles for Genesis 29–31:

Try to find three more timeless truths associated with this section of Scripture:

1. God works with imperfect people.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 29–31

Take one of these four principles and apply it. How would you live out this principle today, or how do you already?

Discussion for Genesis 29–31

Look back at your goal from your noticings and wonderings. How would you answer it now that you've worked on this study? Give proof.

Remember to talk about your question and your answer at camp and with your ecclesia!

Study 3: Jacob Meeting Esau (Genesis 32–33)

Jacob Wrestling the Angel - Genesis 32

I think you know what to do at this point.

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Write your noticings and wonderings based goal for Genesis 32.

Facts for Genesis 32:

Historical Context:

1. v. 1 - Jacob named the place Mahanaim. What does that mean? Why did he use that name?
Where is it?

2. v. 22 - Jacob crossed the ford of the Jabbok. Where is that?

3. v. 30 - Jacob named the place Peniel. What does that mean?

Literary Context:

1. Look at v. 4. What do you notice about how Jacob refers to himself and how he refers to Esau? How does that relate to the blessing that Isaac gave Jacob back in chapter 27? What do you make of that?

2. Read Genesis 32:9-12. What do you think Jacob means by his prayer? Is this a faithful prayer? Or is Jacob relying on himself? How do you know?

3. What about verse 28? What do you make of Jacob being given a name that means he prevailed with God?

Biblical Context:

1. Abigail does something similar to Jacob in 1 Samuel 25 when she is going to meet David. What do you notice that's similar and what is different? Do you learn anything about Jacob by this comparison?

2. This incident is discussed in Hosea 12:4. What does Hosea add to our understanding of the passage?

3. Peniel or Penuel is referenced two other times in the Bible. Can you see any kind of theme that could tie together these references?

Principles for Genesis 32:

Here's another principle. You need to come up with three more.

1. God can work with our fear.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 32

Take one of the above principles and apply it to your life. How would you live out this principle today, or how do you already?

Discussion for Genesis 32

Go back question from the noticings and wonderings. How would you answer that question now? Give proof.

Remember to discuss this question with others!

Jacob Meeting Esau - Genesis 33

Go for it!

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Record your goal from Genesis 33 using your noticings and wonderings:

Facts for Genesis 33:

Historical Context:

1. v. 4 - Esau “fell on his neck and kissed him.” What kind of greeting is this?

2. v. 10 - Jacob says that seeing Esau's face is "like seeing the face of God." What kind of description is this? Is this a typical thing to say to someone?

3. v. 13 - Jacob says that the children and animals are frail and if pushed hard will die. Do you think this true or not? Why?

4. v. 17 - Jacob went to Succoth. How far is it from Penuel to Succoth?

5. v. 18 - Jacob came to Shechem. Why does Shechem matter biblically? Look at other places where it appears in the record.

Literary Context:

1. Just before seeing Esau, Jacob wrestled with the man. How do you think that event affected his meeting with Esau? Why?

2. Do you believe that Esau is genuine here? Why or why not?

3. Genesis 34 takes place after this. How do you think the events of Genesis 34 reflect on what happened in this chapter? What's the connection between the two chapters?

Biblical Context:

1. v. 19 is referenced in the New Testament. Where? And why does it come up there? How does that reference affect how we understand what's happening here?

v. 20 - Jacob didn't build an altar here, he "erected" it, or possibly rebuilt an old one. Who else had built an altar at Shechem? How does this possible rebuilding affect our understanding of the story?

Principles for Genesis 33:

It's somewhat difficult to develop principles here. See if you can find two:

1. We can learn from history.
- 2.
- 3.

Applications for Genesis 33

Apply one of these principles to your life. How do you live it today, or how could you live it in the future?

Discussion for Genesis 33

Answer your question from the noticings and wonderings. Give proof.

Now, you can talk about this with others at your ecclesia and at camp.

Study 4: Renewing the Covenant (Genesis 35)

You know what to do!

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Use your noticings and wonderings to create your goal for Genesis 35:

Facts for Genesis 35:

Historical Context:

1. v. 1 - Jacob goes to Bethel and builds an altar there. In those days, why would people build altars? And why Bethel?

2. v. 4 - Jacob put all of the foreign gods underneath the terebinth tree in Shechem. Why?

3. v. 10 - God changed Jacob's name to Israel a second time. Why do you think God did this twice?

4. v. 11 - God referred to himself as "God Almighty." Why is that a significant name?

5. v. 14, 20 - What is the difference between a pillar and an altar?

Literary Context:

1. v. 2 - What do you make of the fact that Jacob's family owned idols and that Jacob knew that his family had idols?

2. v. 5 - Terror from God fell on the nations around. Why do you think the nations were afraid? Was this a good or a bad thing?

3. v. 8 - Rebekah's nurse dies here. Why is that significant?

4. v. 11–12 - God gave Jacob the promises to Abraham. Compare the promises given to Jacob in Genesis 28 by Isaac. What is the same and what's different?

5. v. 19 - Why do you think Jacob didn't bury Rachel at Hebron like the rest of the family?

Biblical Context:

1. v. 22 is referenced in 1 Chronicles 5:1. What are the rights of the firstborn? Who became the firstborn when Reuben lost this privilege? Why does that matter?

v. 28 - This is where Isaac died. Yet didn't he expect to die in Genesis 27? How much longer did he live? How does this influence our understanding of Genesis 27?

Principles for Genesis 35:

Try to find three principles from this chapter:

1. God answers in the day of our distress.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 35

Take one of the principles above and apply it to your life today (or, explain how you already apply it):

Discussion for Genesis 35

Now, answer your noticings and wonderings chapter. Prove your answer.

Remember to talk about this question with others at camp!

Study 5: Jacob in Egypt (Genesis 46, 49–50)

Jacob Goes to Egypt - Genesis 46

See what you can find:

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

What's your goal now for Genesis 46?

Facts for Genesis 46:

Historical Context:

1. v. 28 - Jacob went to Goshen. Where is that? What does it look like? Where was it in relation to the main Egyptian civilization?

2. v. 34 - Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. Why?

Literary Context:

1. v. 2 - God said Jacob's name twice. Does he do that any other times to Jacob? Does he do that any other times to anyone else in the Bible? Why do you think God did that here?

2. v. 3 - God appeared in a vision of the night. When was the last time that had happened to Jacob? Why might that be significant?

3. v. 4 - What do you think God meant by saying that he would bring Jacob up again? Why do you think that?

4. A lot of this chapter is genealogy. Genesis records numerous genealogies. Why do you think it does that? Why do we need genealogies here?

5. v. 34 - Why was it so important for the Israelites to dwell in Goshen? Couldn't they have lived somewhere else in Egypt?

Biblical Context:

1. v. 27 says that 70 people came into Egypt. When Stephen discusses this incident, he mentions 75 people (Acts 7:14). Why is there a difference here and does it show anything significant?

Principles for Genesis 46:

Genealogies are challenging when finding principles. See if you can find just one more here:

1. God cares about our fear.
- 2.

Applications for Genesis 46

Think about how you could apply one of these principles to your life, or how you already do. Explain.

Discussion for Genesis 46

Go back to your goal from the beginning. How would you answer that question? Give proof.

And, don't forget to talk with people about this!

Jacob's Death - Genesis 48–50

I know that this is a lot of chapters to read, but they really provide a beautiful ending to Jacob's story. Read through them and appreciate the person that Jacob has become after all of the work that God has done to shape him throughout his life. Write down what you notice and wonder.

Noticings	Wonderings
1.	1.
2.	2.

Based on your noticings and wonderings, what would you like to better understand about Jacob's last days?

Facts for Genesis 48–50:

Historical Context:

1. 48:3 - Jacob calls God "God Almighty." Why is that significant?

2. 48:19 - Why does Jacob put his right hand on the head of the younger boy? How does that fit with the pattern in Genesis?

3. 49:28 - Jacob blessed his sons before he died. See if you can find another example of this kind of thing. Why did fathers do this?

4. 50:5 - Joseph wanted to bury Jacob. Why did this matter? Jacob had been embalmed and could have simply stayed as a mummy. Why didn't Joseph want to do that?

Literary Context:

1. 48:15–16 - Think about what Jacob says here. Why is this a big deal?

2. 48:22 - Jacob give Joseph a plot of land. Why do you think he does that here? Why is this significant?

3. Chapter 49 - Choose one of the sons and look specifically at the blessing given to them. In what ways was this blessing fulfilled?

4. 50:13 - The record emphasizes multiple times that Jacob was buried in this specific cave. Why do you think this cave matters so much?

Biblical Context:

1. 48:15–16 - Jacob refers to God as an angel. Why does he do that?

2. 48:19 - How was Jacob's blessing on Ephraim fulfilled?

Principles for Genesis 48–50:

See if you can find three more principles from this section:

1. The land of Israel matters.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Applications for Genesis 48–50

How can you take one of the above principles and apply it to your life? Or how do you do so already?

Discussion for Genesis 48–50

Answer your question from the beginning of this section. Give proof.

Remember to talk with others about your answer!

And now, you're finished with your workbook. Hopefully your study of Jacob has given you tools and ideas for approaching the Bible. Hopefully it has also made Bible study more accessible and enjoyable. Even further, hopefully in working through these things, you have seen the way that God works in the lives of His people and have thus been inspired to see how He works in yours.

3. First Principles Workbook

The student in this section will be studying five different first principles. Over a four year span, we hope to study a total of 20 first principles that span the fundamental teachings of the Truth, God Willing.

First principles study plan:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
God Manifestation	Jesus Christ	The Sacrifice of Christ	God/Creation
Angels	Kingdom of God on Earth	Heaven	God's Spirit
One Body / One Faith	Covenants with Abraham and David	Hell	Bible Word of God
Satan and Devil Defined	Nature of Man/Soul Defined	Salvation Conditional	Temptation/Sin
Israel	Resurrection	Day of Judgment/ Responsibility	Baptism

This year we are on Year 3.

Each section will include some basic principles, questions on why this is an important “first principle” of the Truth and discussion on some “wrested scriptures” or verses that are misinterpreted to try to support false doctrines.

But first, some review of why we have “first principles”.

Why do you think God has given us certain “fundamental principles”? See 1 Tim. 6:3; Titus 1:1; 2:1-15.

Conversely, what does incorrect doctrine frequently lead to? See 1 Tim. 6:3-6; 2 Tim.2:16; 2 Tim.3:1-8

What can a correct understanding of the “holy scriptures” ultimately do for us, if we put them into practice in our lives? See 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

Some of the questions will require use of a Strong's Concordance. Remember, this is a list of every word in the Bible in alphabetical order. Here are some basic steps.

- 1) Look up the word (it will be shown in its context in the verse) and find the number to the right which is the Strong's key number for that original Hebrew or Greek word.
- 2) Go to the back "lexicon" portion of the concordance and find that number (remember, there is a section for Hebrew words in the Old Testament and a separate section for Greek words for the New Testament.)
- 3) Once you find the number, you will find the derivation, definition and also how the word is translated.

Don't forget online resources such as www.blueletterbible.org which include concordances and many other bible study aides you will find useful.

Have fun answering the workbook questions!

Uncle Dan and Aunt Nicki

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Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Sacrifice of Christ

The Basics

Can man justify himself before God? See Rom. 2:12. Were either the Gentiles (Eph. 4:17-18) or the Jews (Rom. 2:25; 3:19-20) able to “save themselves” without Christ? Why or why not?

What principle did God make clear in the Garden of Eden, Gen. 2:17; 3:17-19?

What fundamental benefit do we receive through Christ’s sacrifice? See John 1:29; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:26

What is the ultimate benefit we receive through Christ? See Rom. 5:21; 6:23; 8:23.

What do we inherit through Adam? Rom.5:14; 1 Cor.15:22. What do we inherit through Christ? Rom.5:15; 1 Cor.15:23. How do we associate ourselves with Christ? Col.2:12-13; Rom.6:3-8

Thought Question: How is God’s righteousness or “rightness” declared through Christ’s sacrifice? See Rom. 3:21-28. Think of how Christ’s death as a sinless member of our race allowed God to maintain His rightness while opening a way to eternal life to sinners (cp. 5:15). Rom.8:2.

What trait do we need to associate ourselves with Christ’s sacrifice? Rom.3:28; Gal.3:22.

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Sacrifice of Christ, continued

How should Christ's sacrifice affect us? Rom. 2:29; 8:6; Eph. 5:2; 1 Pet. 2:24-25

Why A First Principle

Perhaps no first principle is more profound (and multi-faceted) than the Sacrifice of Christ. Using some of the principles brought up in the previous questions, why do you think it was necessary for God's son to die and be raised again in order for us to have the opportunity for salvation?

How does a correct understanding of Christ's sacrifice prevent us from wandering to the extremes of salvation through works (Rom. 2:17-25) and a "once saved always saved" mentality (Rom. 6:1-2) and keep us motivated to follow his example (Rom. 5:1-11)?

Wrested Scriptures

Christianity today has migrated to a "substitutionary" model of Christ's sacrifice, claiming he died "instead of" us. This model does not require the believer to actively identify with Christ in this life but asserts that Christ "paid the price" for us and therefore our "immortal soul" will go to heaven as long as we call ourselves a Christian.

Look up the word "for" in Eph. 5:2 in a lexicon. What is the sense of this word? What other verses from the questions above demonstrate that Christianity today is missing the lesson of Christ's sacrifice?

Conversely, some groups assert today that we need to attain "moral perfection" in order to be saved. Is this possible? What traits is God really looking for in us? 1 Cor. 13:13.

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Heaven

The Basics

Where is God's dwelling place? How about man's? See 1 Kings 8:30; Psalm 115:16.

What are some of the things God does from His dwelling place? See Psa. 11:4; 33:13-15; Mal. 3:10

What are the limits of man's domain? See John 3:13; 7:33-34; 8:21-23; 13:33; Acts 2:34-35.

Where is Jesus now and what is he doing? See Luke 19:12-15; John 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5.

When will he return? Acts 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:16

Look up the word for "conversation" in Phil 3:20 (KJV). What Greek word does it come from? What does it mean and how can we use this verse to explain our position relative to participating in politics and military service.

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Heaven, continued

Why a First Principle

Why is it so important to understand where God's dwelling place is and what He has assigned to men both now and in the future? Think about how this impacts our attitudes and priorities now.

Going to heaven when you die is one of the most popular beliefs in Christianity today and a stumbling block for many in learning the Truth. Why?

Wrested Scriptures

In Matt 5:12 we read, "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Explain this verse (Hint: 1 Pet. 1:4; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12)

In Luke 23:43 Jesus says to the thief on the cross, "...Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Explain what Jesus is saying here. How is this sentence structure normally punctuated in the Bible (recall the original Greek did not have punctuation, it was put there by the translators) – see Acts 20:26; 26:29 (see comma placement). When would the thief receive this reward - Matt. 16:27; John 6:39,40,44,54?

In John 14:2 we read "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

What is God's house these days? See 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:19-21. What is Jesus currently doing in heaven relative to this house? See Heb. 3:1-6. Where will this house be in the future? See Isa. 2:3; John 14:3

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Hell

The Basics

Look up the word “hell” in Psalm 16:10 in your concordance. What is the original Hebrew word, what does it mean and how is it translated?

Who in Psalm 16:10 is spoken of as going to hell (see Acts 2:27-31)? How does this disprove the standard Christian view on hell?

Name some faithful of old that are going to the grave = Heb. ‘sheol’ (also translated “hell”)? See Gen. 37:35; 2 Sam. 22:6; Job 14:13. What does this tell us about the meaning of this word?

What are conditions in “sheol” like? See Psa. 6:5; 31:17; Isa. 38:17-18; Eccl. 9:4-6

Look up the word “hell” in Rev. 1:18 in your concordance. What is the original Greek word, what does it mean and how is it translated?

Look up the word for “hell” in Matt. 5:22 in your concordance. What is the original Greek word, what does it mean and how is it translated.

Using a good Bible Dictionary like “Smith’s”, find out more about this particular Greek word and why it became a symbol for complete destruction of the wicked.

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Hell, continued

Why A First Principle?

By the 5th century A.D. the concept of hell as a place of never ending torture as punishment for the wicked came into general acceptance by the Catholic church. Why do you think this became such a popular doctrine with the church?

What is the primary motivation for us to obey God according to scriptures? Romans 8:15-16; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 4:10-11

Wrested Scriptures

At the end of the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, the rejected are said to “go away into everlasting punishment.” (Matt. 25:46). Explain why this is not referring to eternal torments in hell.

Hints: What is spoken of as being eternal? What is the true fate of the wicked? See Phil 3:19; 2 Thess. 1:9. What is used as a symbol of this? See Malachi 4:1-3; John 15:6.

In Rev. 20:10 we read “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” How would you explain this verse to an interested friend?

Hints: Find evidence that Revelation is a symbolic book (see how “fire and brimstone” is used in Rev. 9:17, find other language for God’s punishments, Rev. 14:10-11). What is the fire and brimstone a symbol of in the Bible (see 20:14; 21:8; Jude 7 cp. Gen. 19:24-25)?

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Salvation Conditional

The Basics

What important trait does every believer need in order to live a life in Christ? See Matt. 10:22; Rom. 2:7.

What can happen to some believers? See Ezekiel 18:24; Matt. 24:11-12; Mark 4:17

What are some important steps we can take to prevent this from happening? Read Hebrews 3-4 and come up with as many ideas as you can.

While the believer will never be perfect and we will always fail, the believer must be a “doer of the word” (James 1:22). What is the motivation behind the believer’s action? See James 2:18-20; Gal. 5:5.

Why is it so important that believers meet together frequently including the breaking of bread? 1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 10:25

What should our attitude be towards other believers to help avoid some “falling away” from the Truth? See 1 John 3:11-23; Acts 20:28; Matt. 18:15-17.

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Salvation Conditional, continued

Why a First Principle?

Many young believers struggle with multiple distractions and temptations of the world, while older believers can become tired and even disillusioned after many years of service in the Truth waiting for the Lord's return.

Why do you think it's so important that the believer perseveres through the "ups and downs" of life in the Truth? Why is this important for the saint's future roles in the kingdom? See Rom. 5:3-4; James 1:3-4, 12; 1 Peter 1:7; 5:10

Wrested Scriptures

Many Evangelical groups and an increasing number of Christians overall have embraced the idea of "once saved always saved" where all you have to do is confess Jesus as your savior and you are ensured a spot in heaven. They quote verses such as...

Eph 2:8-9: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

... claiming that salvation is a gift and not related to our actions.

What is true of salvation (Gal. 2:21; Rom. 3:21; 5:21). What do we need to do? (1 Cor. 15:2; Phil 2:12; James 2:24).

John 6:47: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 6:54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

These verses are used to try and prove that all we have to is claim Jesus as our savior, and we are automatically "saved". Explain. Who said that his salvation was not guaranteed? Phil. 3:10-13; 1 Cor. 9:27. What does this imply?

The Basics Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Day of Judgment/Responsibility

The Basics

What is the fate of the ignorant? See Psa. 49:19-20; Prov. 21:16

What is a fundamental principle God has established for those exposed to His Truth? See John 15:22-24; James 4:17

From the following verses list some types of people that Christ will raise to judgment? See 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 1 Peter 4:3-5; John 12:48.

From the following verses who do we find is the judge and determines who is raised to Judgment? See Matt. 7:1; John 5:22; Acts 17:31.

When will the Day of Judgment occur? See 1 Cor. 4:5

What kind of things will Jesus be looking for in us during the Judgment process? See 1 Cor. 3:13; 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10

Will everyone who thinks they will be judged worthy enter the kingdom? See Matt. 7:22-23

Manitoulin Youth Camp – 2025 – First Principles Studies – Day of Judgment/Responsibility

Why A First Principle?

Why is it important to reject the idea that “only the baptized can be raised”? What can happen to those that reject Christ? See Matt. 12:41-42; 26:64; Luke 19:27

Jesus’ parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matt. 25:31-46) is by far the most detailed parable about the judgment seat. Read through this parable and write down your thoughts on what you think the judgment seat is going to be like. What will be the nature and purpose of the dialogue? Hint: What will be the next phase for the “sheep” after the judgment?

Wrested Scriptures

Philippians 4:3

³ And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. Some argue that because our names are already in the book of life, we don’t need to find out our fate at the judgment seat and the judgment seat is really more of an “awards ceremony”. Explain why this is not the case. What can happen to names in the book of life? See Rev. 3:5. What should we avoid doing in regards to judgment? 1 Cor. 4:3-5. What is the purpose of the judgment seat?

1 Corinthians 15:22

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Some suggest from this verse that we must be in “covenant relationship” with Christ (be baptized) in order to be raised. While we cannot be sure of everyone who will be raised, what are some general principles that indicate who will likely be raised – John 15:22-24; Luke 12:47-48; John 12:47-48