Becoming

The clumsy, beautiful, intentional process of Christian growth.

GROUP GUIDE

SIX WEEKS · ONE STORY

God is still forming us.

SERIES OVERVIEW

SIX WEEKS IN THE LIFE OF JACOB

Many people desire to grow spiritually but are unsure of their next step. In this series, we will walk through the story of Jacob—a man who grasps for blessing, encounters grace he did not earn and slowly becomes someone who blesses others. Each week, we will explore a central theme from Jacob's journey and consider what it reveals about God's patient work of shaping us.

01	**Searching for the Blessing** Genesis 27:5-19, 30-45	BEGIN
02	**The Power of Grace** Genesis 28:10-22	BEHOLD & BELIEVE
03	**Finding True Love and Working Hard** Genesis 29:14-30	BELONG
04	**Wrestling with God** Genesis 32:6-12, 22-32	BECOME
05	**The Reconciled Life** Genesis 33:1-11	BUILD
06	**Becoming a Blessing** Genesis 47:29-31, 48:8-20	BLAZE

LEADER & HOST GUIDELINES

Creating the culture for a healthy gathering

WHY IT MATTERS

You are helping build a space where people feel safe, seen, and spiritually stretched. Your leadership creates the culture.

BEFORE EACH WEEK

- **Ask God to move.** Pray that your gathering space becomes a place of transformation, healing, and true community.
- **Confirm the details.** Make sure everyone has the correct time, location, and contact information.
- **Share the guide.** Ensure everyone has access to the group guide.
- **Cue the weekly video: voxchurch.org/campaigns/becoming**
- **Plan ahead.** Prepare for the group discussion and begin planning a Week 7 Potluck Dinner.

LEADERSHIP TIPS

- **Guide the tone, not just the time.** Be warm, open, and grounded.
- **Model vulnerability.** If you go first, go real.
- **Pay attention.** Make room for quiet voices and gently guide talkative ones.
- **Protect the space.** Keep the conversation safe, focused, and respectful.
- **Let God move.** Trust the process. Lean into the awkward and trust the Holy Spirit.

A SIMPLE POSTURE

Be warm. Stay attentive. Keep Jesus at the center. Trust the Holy Spirit to work.

REMEMBER

God is still forming us.

WHEREVER YOU ARE, THAT IS WHERE YOU START

This is not a race with a leaderboard, and the stages are not a measure of how much God loves you — that was settled at the cross before you took a single step.

Some of us will move through the onramp in a matter of months. For others it will take a year or two, and that is not failure; that is formation. The only wrong move is to stand still because you are waiting to feel ready.

So find your stage. Take the next step in front of you, and let someone in this group know what it is. God began a good work in you, and he has never once abandoned a work he started.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."
— Philippians 1:6

GROUP GUIDELINES

FOR EVERYONE
Whether you are exploring faith, joining a group for the first time, or have followed Jesus for years, keep the Bible central, reflect honestly, and choose one practical next step.

01	**Everyone's Welcome.** No one is pressured to share - but everyone is invited. This is about connection, not performance.
02	**Honor the Space.** Make space for everyone, especially those who haven't shared yet.
03	**Go First, Go Real.** When someone takes the first step in being open and sincere, it gives others permission to do the same.
04	**Have Fun!** Laughter is sacred. Joy builds connection.
05	**One Voice at a Time.** Let each person speak without interruption or side chatter.
06	**Consistency Matters.** Commit to attending each week.

WEEKLY GATHERING FLOW

A shared rhythm for all six weeks.

01 — Open & Welcome
Settle in with a short check-in and prayer.

02 — Icebreaker
Use one light, low-pressure question.

03 — Watch the Video
Watch a short teaching.

04 — Head
Read the passage and notice what Scripture says.

05 — Heart
Explore what we believe and where truth meets life.

06 — Hands
Choose one concrete response to practice this week.

07 — Share: Mission
Name someone to serve, invite, or encourage.

08 — Close in Prayer
Pray the week's truth back to God together.

09 — Pathway Step
Open the app and choose the next step that fits you.

A SHARED RHYTHM

Keep the Bible central, reflect honestly, and choose one practical next step.

THE PATHWAY

SEVEN STAGES OF GROWTH

Over six weeks we have watched God take a grasping, frightened man and make him a blessing to generations he never met. That is not a story about Jacob's effort. It is a story about God's patience. The pathway below is simply our attempt, as a church, to give that same patient work a shape you can see and a next step you can take.

1 — BEGIN *the journey*
Step out of anonymity. Register, choose your campus, and see the whole road ahead.

2 — BEHOLD *the Son of God*
Get an honest look at Jesus. Essentials 1.0, Christianity Explored, a first place to serve.

3 — BELIEVE *the Gospel*
Move from interest to faith and obedience. Baptism class, and telling your story.

4 — BELONG *to community*
Join a Community Group, take the membership step, and choose a way to serve.

5 — BECOME *a disciple*
Build the habits of formation. Discipleship 1.0, Institute 1.0: Bible, Freedom in Christ.

6 — BUILD *with others*
Begin multiplying. Discipleship 2.0, Institute 1.0: Theology, and serving on purpose.

7 — BLAZE *a new trail*
Lead in your sphere. Discipleship 3.0, Institute 1.0: Mission, and Vox Leadership.

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- What promise of God are you learning to trust even if you do not see the full outcome?
- Who has God placed within your influence to encourage, equip, mentor, or bless?
- What time, story, resource, or opportunity are you tempted to protect rather than pass on?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Write the name of one person you will intentionally encourage or invest in during the next 30 days.
- Give another group member a brief, truthful encouragement based on a Christlike quality you have seen.

SHARE: MISSION

Choose one shared act of blessing the group can complete within 30 days. Decide the action, owner, and date before the gathering ends.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Faithful God, thank you for meeting and carrying us. Because Jesus has blessed us beyond what we could earn, make our lives a blessing to the people around us and those who come after us. Amen.

THE PATHWAY AHEAD · STAGE 7 · BLAZE

Blaze is not a graduation. It is a commissioning — the disciple formed by Christ now leading with Christ in a home, a workplace, a neighborhood, a campus, a nation, and helping others walk the same road.

There is no finish line here. Only a life that keeps beholding, believing, belonging, becoming and building — now with others walking behind you.

1

WEEK ONE

SEARCHING FOR THE BLESSING

BIG IDEA

Jacob wants blessing, approval, and a future. The desire is understandable; the problem is that he uses deception and control to get it.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

Jacob pretends to be someone else to receive a blessing. Jesus is the beloved Son, and through faith in him we are adopted and receive what we could never earn (Matthew 3:17; Ephesians 1:3-6).

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we come in as we are, with our wanting and our striving. Quiet us, turn our attention to Jesus, and show us what we are really looking for. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

As a child, what prize, privilege, or activity did you want most?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: Genesis 27:5-19, 30-45

- What does Jacob say and do? What makes the deception serious?
- What does this scene reveal about what Jacob wants and what he fears?
- How do Jacob's choices affect Isaac, Esau, Rebekah, and Jacob himself?

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- Where are you tempted to earn or control approval, security, worth, or success?
- What version of yourself do you feel pressure to present in order to be accepted?
- How does receiving God's grace through Jesus change the way you face that pressure?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Choose one way to stop managing the outcome this week: tell the truth, ask for help, admit a limit, or release a demand.

SHARE: MISSION

Encourage one person this week without tying their value to what they accomplish. Be specific and sincere.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, forgive us for the ways we grasp, perform, and hide. Thank you that Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. Teach us to live from your grace. Amen.

PATHWAY STEP · BEGIN

DOWNLOAD THE VOX CHURCH APP: register, choose your campus, and watch the short Pathway overview. Help one another with the app if needed. No one needs to complete the step publicly; the goal is growth, not proof.

voxchurch.org/app

WEEK SIX

6 BECOMING A BLESSING

BIG IDEA

The man who once stole a blessing ends his life trusting God's promise and using his remaining strength to bless the next generation.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

Jesus is the promised offspring through whom God's blessing reaches the nations. In him we receive the Spirit and are freed to give ourselves away for others (Galatians 3:13-14).

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, thank you for what you have done in us over these weeks. As we finish, make us people who give away what we have received. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

What gift, tradition, lesson, or phrase did someone pass on to you that still matters?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: **Genesis 47:29-31, 48:8-20**

- What two priorities shape Jacob's final requests?
- What does Jacob's blessing reveal about God's care and faithfulness over his lifetime?
- What differences do you see between Jacob in Genesis 27 and Jacob in Genesis 48?

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- Where might you need to own harm without defending or minimizing it?
- Where has self-protection become bitterness or avoidance?
- What would pursuing peace look like while still honoring truth, dignity, and safety?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Choose the next wise step: pray, seek counsel, own your part, make an apology, offer restitution, or set a needed boundary.
- Practice a clean apology: “I was wrong when I _____. It affected you by _____. I am sorry. Is there a way I can begin to make this right?”

SHARE: MISSION

Where does your family, workplace, neighborhood, campus, or church need a bridge-builder? Choose one action that does not take sides or share private details.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

God of peace, thank you for reconciling us to yourself through Jesus. Give us humility to own our sin, courage to pursue peace, and wisdom to protect the vulnerable. Amen.

THE PATHWAY AHEAD · STAGE 6 · BUILD

Build is the turn outward. Everything before it is God working in you; here it begins working through you — not because you have arrived, but because what you have received was never meant to stop with you.

You do not have to be finished to help someone one step behind you. Build begins with a single name.

2

WEEK TWO

THE POWER OF GRACE

BIG IDEA

God meets Jacob while he is afraid, ashamed, and running. Grace moves toward Jacob before Jacob has earned it or fully understood it.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

Jesus calls himself the true meeting place between heaven and earth (John 1:51). We do not work our way up to God; God comes to us through Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

God, you moved toward us before we knew to look for you. Open our eyes tonight to the grace already at work among us. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

Share a time when a gift, favor, or act of kindness genuinely surprised you?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22

- What is Jacob's situation when God meets him?
- What does God promise Jacob? Which parts depend on Jacob first proving himself?
- What do Jacob's words in verses 20-22 reveal about how he is still learning to trust?

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- Where can you now see that God was at work before you recognized him?
- Where are you tempted to bargain with God by saying, “If you do this, then I will trust you”?
- What question or hesitation about Jesus do you need space to explore honestly?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Write down one moment when grace met you before you were ready. Share it if you choose.
- Finish this prayer in one sentence: “Jesus, help me trust you with _____.”

SHARE: MISSION

Choose one person who is unsure about faith or far from God. Pray for them by name this week and look for a natural opportunity to listen to their story.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

God of grace, thank you for coming toward us before we had ourselves together. Open our eyes to Jesus and give us courage to respond honestly. Amen.

THE PATHWAY AHEAD · STAGES 2 & 3 · BEHOLD & BELIEVE

Behold and Believe belong together, because you cannot believe what you have never clearly seen. Behold is where you get an honest, unhurried look at Jesus. Believe is where looking turns into trusting and trusting turns into obedience.

CARRY THIS WITH YOU

“God comes to us through Christ.”

WEEK FIVE

5 THE RECONCILED LIFE

BIG IDEA

Jacob begins to seek peace with humility, risk, and generosity toward the brother he harmed. A changed life starts to become good news for other people.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

God reconciles us to himself through Jesus' death and resurrection, then sends us to become people who pursue truth and peace (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

OPENING PRAYER

God of peace, search us as we begin. Where we have caused harm or carried resentment, give us humility and lead us in the way of Jesus. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

What reunion from real life, a book, a movie, or television has stayed with you?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: Genesis 33:1-11

- What does Jacob do as he approaches Esau? What do his posture and gifts communicate?
- What does Esau do that Jacob does not expect?
- How is Jacob different from the man who stole the blessing in Genesis 27?

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- What are you wrestling with God about right now?
- Where do you want control, relief, or an answer more than you want to trust God?
- What label, such as failure, fixer, rejected, not enough, or too much, are you tempted to treat as your identity?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Write two short sentences, or share them with the group: “What I am trying to control is _____.” “The next thing I can entrust to God is _____.”

SHARE: MISSION

Contact one person who is carrying something hard. Ask what support would actually help, then follow through without trying to explain their pain.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Father, meet us in what we cannot control. Because Jesus was faithful for us, give us courage to tell the truth, trust you, and take the next clear step. Amen.

THE PATHWAY AHEAD · STAGE 5 · BECOME

Become is the heart of the whole pathway. This is where the Christian life stops being something you agree with and starts being something you live.

This is the stage most Christians skip and later wish they had not. When you get here, do not rush it, and do not do it alone.

CARRY THIS WITH YOU

Our hope rests in his faithfulness.

WEEK THREE

3 FINDING TRUE LOVE AND WORKING HARD

BIG IDEA

Jacob begins choosing commitment and patient work over shortcuts. He also learns that no relationship can carry the full weight of his identity or hope.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

Jesus gives himself in patient, costly love for his people. Because we are already loved in Christ, we can love imperfect people without asking them to save us.

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for calling us into a family. Give us patience with one another and honesty about ourselves as we open your Word. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

Name something you waited or worked for that proved worth the effort?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: Genesis 29:14-30

- How is Jacob welcomed into Laban's household? What does that offer him?
- What does Jacob offer for Rachel, and why is seven years costly for him?
- What complications in the larger story keep this from being a simple romance?

HEART | WHAT DO WE REALLY BELIEVE?

Discuss the questions that best fit the group. Anyone may pass; silence does not need to be filled.

- Where are you looking for a shortcut instead of doing the slow work of growth?
- What makes community difficult for you? What is your usual escape route when relationships get complicated?
- Who or what are you expecting to meet a need that only God can fully meet?

HANDS | PRACTICE IT TOGETHER

- Tell one person in the room something specific you appreciate about the way they have contributed to the group.

SHARE: MISSION

Invite someone who is new, lonely, or unsure into a meal, conversation, or the next gathering you are attending. Keep the invitation personal and low-pressure.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for loving us with patience. Help us do the ordinary work of showing up, telling the truth, giving care, and receiving it. Amen.

THE PATHWAY AHEAD · STAGE 4 · BELONG

Belong is where a crowd becomes a church. It is the stage that turns attendance into membership, and acquaintances into the people who will actually know you, pray for you, and show up when it gets hard.

You are already tasting this tonight. Belong is simply what happens when you decide to stay.

CARRY THIS WITH YOU

One honest step is enough.

WEEK FOUR

4 WRESTLING WITH GOD

BIG IDEA

Maturity does not mean we stop struggling. Jacob changes as he stays honest with God, releases control, and receives an identity he did not create for himself.

JESUS AT THE CENTER

In Gethsemane, Jesus brings his anguish to the Father and submits perfectly for our salvation. Our hope rests in his faithfulness, not in how well we handle our struggle.

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we bring you what we are carrying and what we cannot fix. Meet us here, and give us courage to be honest with you and with each other. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

What skill, hobby, or activity took you more than one try to learn?

WATCH THE VIDEO

HEAD | WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read Scripture: **Genesis 32:6-12, 22-32**

- What is happening around Jacob, and why is this night especially vulnerable?
- Why does the question “What is your name?” matter in Jacob's story?
- What changes, and what remains unresolved, when Jacob walks away?