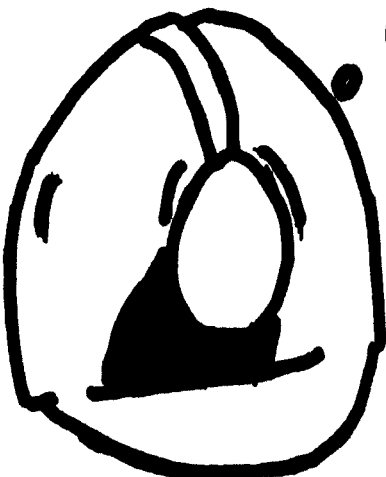


IN YOUR
DREAMS
MAN!



6 group discussions based on
"Billy Elliot"
.....sharing stories and
reflecting together on the
story of Jacob in the Bible.

Created by
Maureen Hudson
Brenda Glaves
Lois Fenton-Smith

Unlock House
336A City Road
Sheffield
S2 1GA
office@unlock.force9.co.uk
www.unlock-urban.org.uk

Welcome to....



This pack is designed to be used with a small group of adults, and uses the film Billy Elliot to encourage people to share their own experiences, and then compare these with the story of Jacob in the Bible.

You can use each session separately if you want to, in any order ... or go through sessions 1 to 6 in order, which will take you through the story of Jacob.

You'll need to buy (or borrow!) a copy of Billy Elliot. If people in the group have not seen it, you may want to spend one evening watching the entire film, before you begin the studies. (Don't forget the popcorn!!)

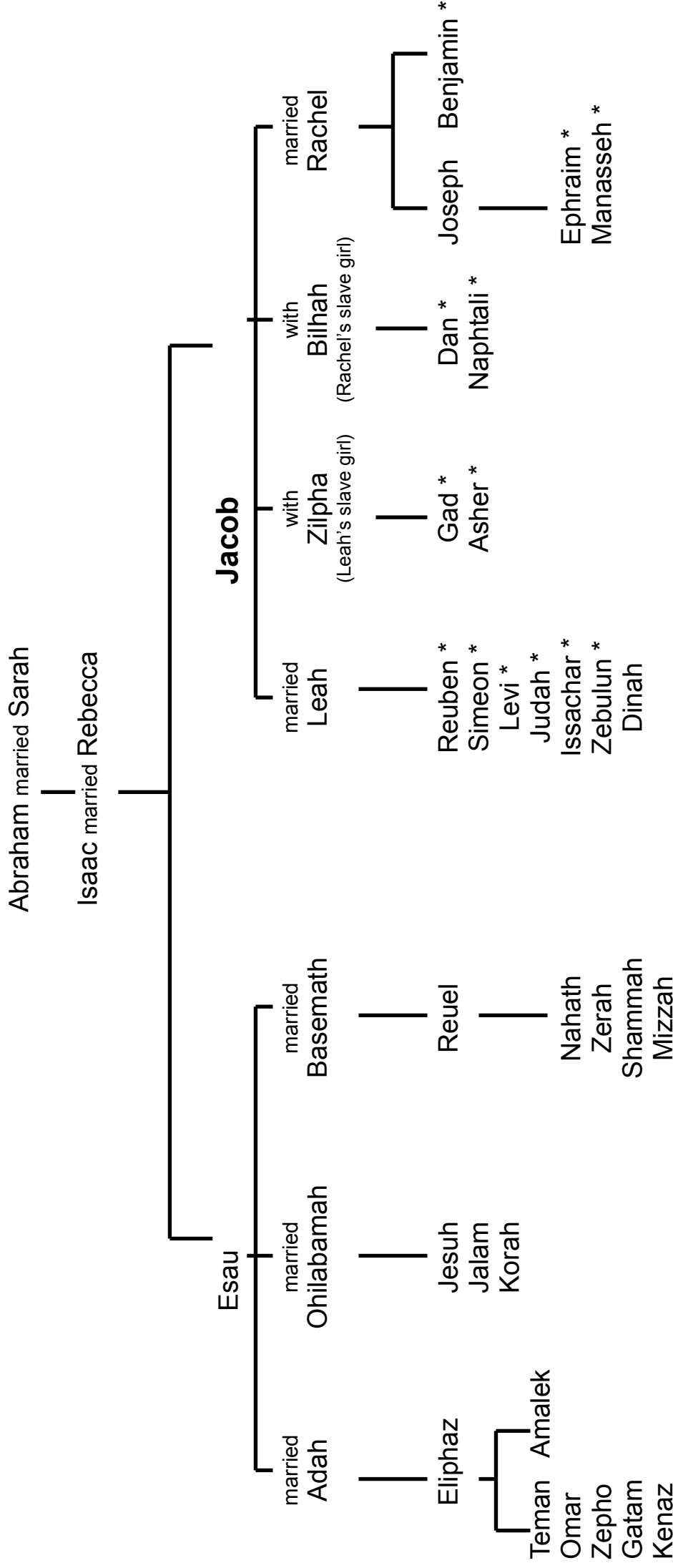
The sheets in this pack may be copied for you to use with your group—you don't need Bibles, as the passages are given to you in the pack.

If you'd like to look at more details about Unlock's method, and hints for group leaders, turn to pages 20 and 21.

Contents

	Who's who?	Page 3
Session 1	Wolf in sheep's clothes	Page 4
Session 2	Life is what you make it	Page 7
Session 3	Nowhere to hide	Page 10
Session 4	A Father's love for his son	Page 13
Session 5	Struggling with y'r dreams	Page 16
Session 6	Ever had a dream come true	Page 18
	Unlock's method	Page 20
	Hints for group leaders	Page 21

JACOB'S FAMILY—WHO'S WHO?



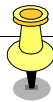
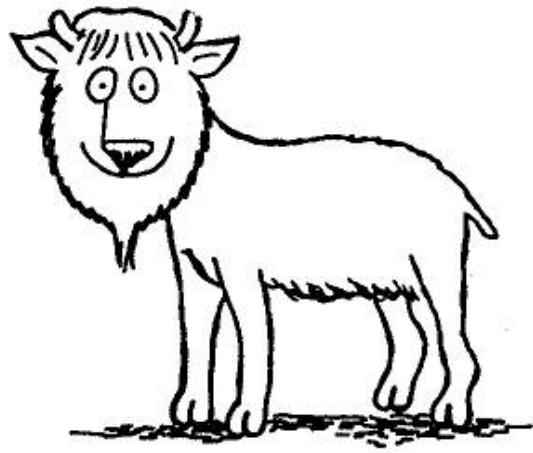
* Eleven of Jacob's sons, and the two sons of Joseph, (counting as half-tribes), gave their names to the tribes, or family-clans of Israel.

WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHES



Show the video clip starting at 36 minutes 23 seconds, to 38 minutes 46 seconds.

Billy and his teacher are talking about him going to ballet school.



Questions:-



- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Have you ever had to do something behind someone's back?
- Have you ever wanted/needed anything so badly that you'd do anything to get it?
- Did anyone encourage you?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?





Look at Genesis chapter 27 verses 1-29 (with some verses summarized). This could be dramatised or told as a story.

Isaac was now old and had become blind. He sent for his elder son Esau and said to him, "You see that I am old and may die soon. Take your bow and arrows, go out into the country, and kill an animal for me. Cook me some of that tasty food that I like, and bring it to me. After I have eaten it, I will give you my final blessing before I die."

Rebecca the wife of Isaac and mother of Esau and Jacob overheard their conversation.



"Now, my son," Rebecca continued, "listen to me and do what I say. Go to the flock and pick out two fat young goats, so that I can cook them and make some of that food your father likes so much. You can take it to him to eat, and he will give you his blessing before he dies."

Jacob thought that his father would not be deceived, because Esau was hairy and he was smooth. Jacob thought his father may curse him instead.



His mother answered, "Let any curse against you fall on me, my son; just do as I say, and go and get the goats for me."

Jacob did as his mother asked.

Then she took Esau's best clothes, which she kept in the house, and put them on Jacob. She put the skins of the goats on his arms and on the hairless part of his neck.

Jacob took the food she had cooked into his father; Isaac asked which son he was.

"I am your elder son Esau; I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of the meat that I have brought you, so that you can give me your blessing." Isaac said, "How did you find it so quickly, son?" Jacob answered, "The Lord your God helped me find it."

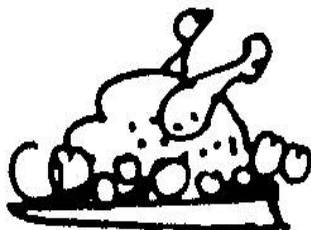
Isaac was unsure which son he was, so asked him to come closer so he could feel him. Isaac thought he sounded like Jacob, but felt like Esau.

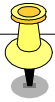
He did not recognize Jacob, because his arms were hairy like Esau's. He was about to give him his blessing, but asked again "Are you really Esau?" "I am," he answered.



Jacob gave Isaac the meat to eat and some wine to drink, then Jacob kissed him.

As he came up to kiss him, Isaac smelt his clothes—so he gave him his blessing. He said, "The pleasant smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed. May God give you dew from heaven and make your fields fertile! May he give you plenty of corn and wine. May nations be your servants, and may peoples bow down before you. May you rule over all your relatives, and may your mother's descendants bow down before you. May those who curse you be cursed, and those who bless you be blessed."





Questions:-

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob's story?
- What difference will this make for us?



And the story continues.....

Jacob's brother, Esau, was upset that his father had blessed Jacob and not him. He'd been hunting for tasty food for his father, and as he cooked it he was wondering what else he could do to please him.

When Isaac realised he had been deceived by Jacob, it was hard to say whether he was upset or angry with him. Obviously, as Isaac had given Jacob his blessing, (his birthright), there was nothing Esau could do. Poor old Rebecca was worried and urged Jacob to run away whilst his brother calmed down.

She was so fed up with Esau's womanising, that she felt she may as well be dead if Jacob started being like him. Anyhow, Isaac and Rebecca sent Jacob off to Mesopotamia to marry his Uncle's daughter. Esau, not to be outdone, went off and married another woman (a further wife).

Jacob left Beersheba and set off towards Haran. When he was tired he set up camp and had a dream

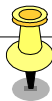
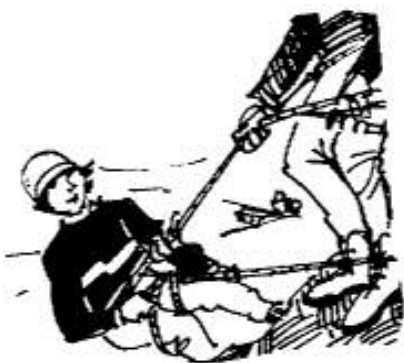
Genesis chapter 27 v 30 to chapter 28 v 10

LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT



Show the clip starting from 50 minutes to 54 minutes.

Billy and his teacher are driving over the transporter bridge to Newcastle to an interview.



Questions:-

- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Have you ever had a dream?
- Have you ever had a dream come true?
- How long did it take to fulfill? Are you still dreaming?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?





LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

Look at Genesis chapter 28 verses 11–15

At sunset he came to a holy place and camped there. He lay down to sleep, resting his head on a stone.

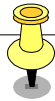
He dreamt that he saw a stairway reaching from earth to heaven, with angels going up and down on it.

And there was the Lord standing beside him. “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac” he said. “I will give to you and your descendants this land on which you are lying.

They will be as numerous as the specks of dust on the earth. They will extend their territory in all directions, and through you and your descendants I will bless all the nations.

Remember, I will be with you and protect you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.

I will not leave you until I have done all that I have promised you”.



Questions:-

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob’s story?
- What difference will this make for us?



LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

And the story continues.....

When Jacob woke up he realised that God had been there, and he said the stone he had been using as a pillow would be a memorial to God. He called the place Bethel. He made a promise to God that if He looked after him on his journey, he would worship Him at the place of the memorial, and give a tenth of all he earned.

He went on his journey and met some shepherds by a well where they were giving their sheep some water. Jacob asked them where they were going, and they said Haran (where he was making for). He asked them if they knew his Uncle, Laban, and they did. Just then Laban's daughter, Rachel, came along to get water for their sheep. He was so pleased to see her he kissed her and told her his story of who he was. She ran back to tell her father, and he was pleased and ran to meet his nephew. Although Laban had 2 daughters, Jacob fell in love with Rachel. He told Laban he didn't want any pay for working for him, but that he would work for him for 7 years to get his daughter in marriage. He enjoyed his time there because he was near Rachel.

When the time was up, Laban gave them a wedding feast to which everyone was invited. He misled Jacob and sent his eldest daughter Leah to sleep with Jacob. He was furious and asked Laban why he had tricked him. He said that it was the custom that the eldest daughter married first. Then he came up with an outstanding suggestion. Work for me for another 7 years and you can have Rachel. Jacob amazingly agreed to, and he did work for Laban for another 7 years. It seemed that it was God's wish that Leah should have children but not Rachel, and she became jealous of her sister. Rachel suggested Jacob should sleep with her slave girl and she could have a child for Rachel, and they had a son. The scheming sisters said Jacob could sleep with Leah in return for some mandrakes, (exotic flowers supposedly with magical powers!). Leah then had a sixth son for Jacob. Later on they had a daughter, Dinah. Amazingly Rachel became pregnant and had a son, Joseph (of dreamcoat fame).

Jacob wanted to return to his parents' home with his wife and children. Laban wanted to pay him for all the years' work, but Jacob said he only wanted certain sheep from his flock. But Laban tricked Jacob again by removing all the sheep he had promised him. Jacob was getting wise to his Uncle, and tricked him by leaving him with all the weak animals, and took the strong ones and became very wealthy.

Of course, Laban's sons were saying that Jacob had taken all the good sheep. He sent word to Rachel and Leah that their father had gone off him, so they all set off for Canaan with everything he had acquired in Mesopotamia.....

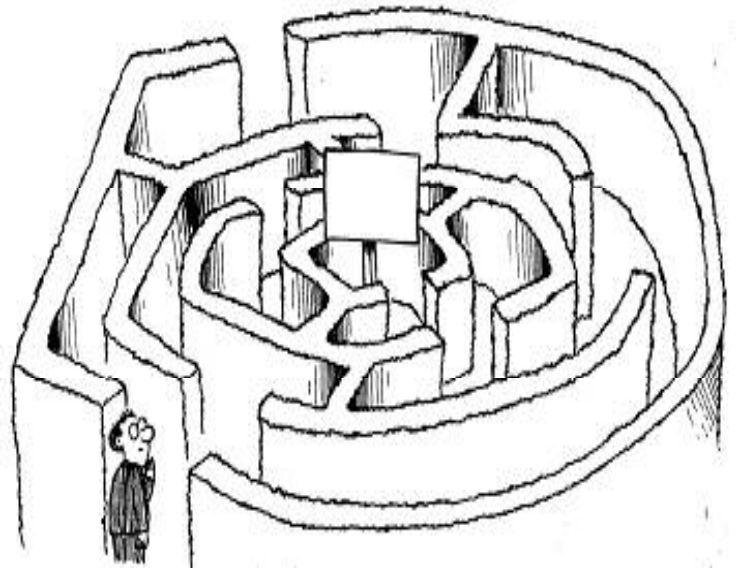
Genesis chapter 28 v 16—31 v 18

NOWHERE TO HIDE



Show the video clip starting from 56 minutes to 59 minutes.

Billy sees the miners being chased by the police, and his brother gets caught.



Questions:-



- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Have you ever been chased by anyone?
- Have you ever had to hide from anyone e.g. rent man?
- Did anyone help you in any way?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?



Look at Genesis chapter 31 verses 17-18 and 22-31.

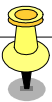
So Jacob got ready to go back to his father in the land of Canaan. He put his children and his wives on the camels, and drove all his flocks ahead of him, with everything that he had acquired in Mesopotamia.

Three days later Laban was told that Jacob had fled. He took his men with him and pursued Jacob for seven days until he caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead.

In a dream that night God came to Laban and said to him, “Be careful not to threaten Jacob in any way.” Jacob had set up his camp on a mountain, and Laban set up his camp with his relatives in the hill country of Gilead.

Laban said to Jacob, “Why did you deceive me and carry off my daughters like women captured in war? Why did you deceive me and slip away without telling me? If you had told me, I would have sent you on your way with rejoicing and singing to the music of tambourines and harps. You did not even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters goodbye. That was a foolish thing to do! I have the power to do you harm, but last night the God of your father warned me not to threaten you in any way. I know that you left because you were so anxious to get back home, but why did you steal my household gods?”

Jacob answered, “ I was afraid, because I thought you might take your daughters away from me.”



Questions: -

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob's story?
- What difference will this make for us?



And the story continues.....

Laban chased after Jacob, and it appeared he was looking for his gods which Rachel had stolen, but Jacob did not know about that.

Rachel sat on these gods to hide them, but told her father she couldn't stand up as she was having her period.

Jacob and Laban had a bit of a slanging match about all he had done for his two daughters and his flocks.

They eventually came to an agreement, which is the subject of our next study ...

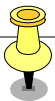
Genesis chapter 31 v 32-42

A FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON (reconciled)



Show the video clip starting at 1 hour 10 minutes to 1 hour 15 minutes.

This clip shows Billy's father realising that Billy is serious about dancing, and that he must help him to do something about it.



Questions: -

- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Does the father/son relationship ring any bells for you?
- Have you been in a similar position (parent/child), as in the video?
- Has anyone ever given you something special to show their commitment to you?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?





A FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON (reconciled)

Look at Genesis 31 verses 43-53

Laban answered Jacob, "These young women are my daughters; their children belong to me, and these flocks are mine. In fact, everything you see here belongs to me. But since I can do nothing to keep my daughters and their children, I am ready to make an agreement with you. Let us make a pile of stones to remind us of our agreement."

So Jacob took a stone, and set it up as a memorial. He told his men to gather some rocks and pile them up. Then they ate a meal beside the pile of rocks. Laban named it Jegar Sahadutha, while Jacob named it Galeed. Laban said to Jacob, "This pile of rocks will be a reminder for both of us."

That is why that place was named Galeed. Laban also said, "May the Lord keep an eye on us while we are separated from each other."

So the place was also named Mizpah. Laban went on, "If you ill-treat my daughters or if you marry other women, even if I don't know about it, remember that God is watching us. Here are the rocks that I have piled up between us, and here is the memorial stone."

Both this pile and this memorial stone are reminders. I will never go beyond this pile to attack you, and you must never go beyond it or beyond this memorial stone to attack me. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor will judge between us." Then, in the name of the God whom his father Isaac worshipped, Jacob solemnly vowed to keep this promise. He killed an animal, which he offered as a sacrifice on the mountain, and he invited his men to a meal.

After they had eaten, they spent the night on the mountain. Early the next morning Laban kissed his grandchildren and his daughters good-bye, and left to go back home.

A FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS SON (reconciled)



Questions: -

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob's story?
- What difference will this make for us?



And the story continues.....

Jacob has yet another dream as he prepares to meet face to face with his brother Esau again.

The angels told him that it was God's camp and he called it Mahanaim. He sent messengers ahead to tell him he was coming, and they came back to say Esau was coming to meet him. He was frightened and prayed to God. He decided which sheep to give his brother to win him over. They did meet, and Jacob bowed down to his brother 7 times.

They had a long discussion and settled on an agreement to divide their sheep and cattle but live in separate places.

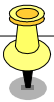
Genesis chapter 32 v 1-21

STRUGGLING WITH Y'R DREAMS



Show the video clip
starting at 1 hour
58 minutes
25 seconds, to
1 hour 2 minutes.

Billy misses his audition for
the Royal Ballet School.



Questions: -

- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Have you ever been stopped from doing something you wanted to do?
- How did you feel about it?
- Did your gender determine your future? How?
- Did you have any say in your future? Why?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?





STRUGGLING WITH Y'R DREAMS

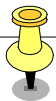
Look at Genesis chapter 32 verses 22-32.

That same night Jacob got up, took his two wives, his two concubines, and his eleven children and crossed the River Jabbok. After he had sent them across, he also sent across all that he owned, but he stayed behind, alone.

Then a man came and wrestled with him until just before daybreak. When the man saw that he was not winning the struggle, he struck Jacob on the hip, and it was thrown out of joint. The man said, "Let me go; daylight is coming." "I won't, unless you bless me," Jacob answered. "What is your name?" the man asked. "Jacob," he answered.

The man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have struggled with God and with men, and you have won; so your name will be Israel." Jacob said, "Now tell me your name." But he answered, "Why do you want to know my name?" Then he blessed Jacob.

Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face, and I am still alive"; so he named the place Peniel. The sun rose as Jacob was leaving Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. Even today the descendants of Israel do not eat the muscle which is on the hip joint, because it was on this muscle that Jacob was struck.



Questions:-

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob's story?
- What difference will this make for us?



And the story continues.....

God spoke again to Jacob and told him to go back to Bethel to build an altar there. He reminded him when he came to him when he was running away all those years ago..... God is pleased with Jacob, (the subject of our last study).

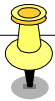
Genesis chapter 33 and 34

EVER HAD A DREAM COME TRUE?



Show the video clip starting at 1 hour 41 minutes to 1 hour 46 minutes.

The father and brother go and see Billy perform in the theatre.



Questions:-

- Does this clip ring any bells for you?
- Have you ever felt proud of someone?
- Have you ever achieved a dream?
- What happened? Would you like to share it with us?







EVER HAD A DREAM COME TRUE?

Look at Genesis chapter 35 verses 10-12 and chapter 37 verse 1.....

God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but from now on it will be Israel.”

So God named him Israel. And God said to him, “I am Almighty God. Have many children. Nations will be descended from you, and you will be the ancestor of kings. I will give you the land which I gave to Abraham and to Isaac, and I will also give it to your descendants after you.”

Jacob continued to live in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived.....



Questions:-

- Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?
- How does the story of Jacob relate to our story?
- How does our story relate to Jacob’s story?
- What difference will this make for us?

UNLOCK'S METHOD

These notes assume that a group leader has some basic experience and understanding of working with groups.

A good small book with over 70 drawings (many humorous) is Once upon a group, by Michael and Maggie Kindred, Price £5 plus £1 P&P, from 4M Publications, 20 Dover Street, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0EZ

The usual method of Bible study

Most Bible studies begin with text, moving on to analysis of the text, and deduction of general principles. This provides a logical framework, and the person stores the information (in his/her mind, in note form or on disc) for use when needed. It requires a way of thinking and communicating which is based on book and lecture (linear) methods of learning. This is not appropriate for a growing number of people.



Unlock's method of Bible study (used in this pack)

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Starting from a clip from the video of Billy Elliot, people share their real life experiences.



Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Change happens as a result of linking real life experiences with the Bible.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

They compare their real life stories with similar situations in the story of Jacob in the Bible.

...leading to more experiences, and the process continues ...



SOME HINTS FOR GROUP LEADERS!

This pack is based on stories—people's own stories and the story of Jacob.

Be positive about everyone's contribution! There are no right and wrong answers when it comes to stories. If you've got some Bible knowledge, use it to help the group when it's useful—it's an added extra, not the starting point!

You will need to decide as a group leader where you draw the line and say "No, you can't say that about this Bible passage." Our experience has been that taking risks and being positive about whatever people say brings new energy to passages you may have looked at many of times before, as the Biblical story engages with people's experiences.

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

This part is to encourage people to share their everyday life experiences. It is not expecting "spiritual" answers, and there are no right and wrong answers. Begin by giving out the picture for the session., and use the questions on the leaders page to take you through a process:

Ask "What do you see?" The idea of this part is to make sure that the group has some common understanding about the video clip—or at least people know if they are seeing something differently from others.

Ask "What is this video clip about?" The idea is to get under the surface of the picture. Again, there are no right and wrong answers! Continuing to ask "Why?" can often take a group deeper in to looking at the root causes of some situations.

Ask "Does this ring any bells with real life?" The idea of this part is to encourage group members to share some of their own experiences. What they say will depend largely on how long the group has been going, and how much they trust each other—but be ready to be surprised! It could be that someone's shared story will mean that you, or others, will need to offer support outside the group.

Ask "What links you can see between your stories"?

Placing one story next to another shows solidarity.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

This part is to give people an opportunity to move from their stories to the story of Jacob. You can make copies of the Bible page for each person to have one, or someone could read it to the group.

Ask:-

- **Can you make any links between your stories and the story of Jacob?**
- **What light does the story of the Jacob give to our own stories?**
- **What light do our stories give to the story of Jacob?**

Don't forget, there are no wrong answers. Be ready to be surprised by the Holy Spirit's revelations to the group—and be ready to learn. A lot of Bible studies are designed to help the group leader get a preset message across. This pack is designed to give a Bible story to people who can make sense of it from their own situation.

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

This part is to encourage change for individuals and groups, and may lead to change among those around them.

"What difference will this make for us?"

It might be something the group can do. It might be a change of attitude (a positive outcome!)

...and this gives more experiences to unlock, and the process continues....

