



From Jacob To Israel
Text: Genesis chapters 28 - 35
Series: Genesis, #12
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
March 21, 2021

Theme: **Our Path To Spiritual Maturity Is A Zigzag.***

Highlights Of Significant Events On Jacob's Trip.

1. On the run ... running into God. (28)
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2. Studies in the school of hard knocks. (29-31)
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3. The long, hard road home. (31-33)
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4. Family tragedies. (34:1-31; 35:22; see also 49:3-4)

Jacob's Zigzag To Israel.

1. Deception and self-preservation. (28:1-9; see also chapters 25 - 27)
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2. Obedience and faith. (28:6-9; 31:1 f.; 32:9-12; 35:1-3)
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3. Careless compromise. (29:31 - 30:24; 31:19; 35:2-4)
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4. Diligence and integrity. (30:25-43; 31:6)

God's Straight Line.

1. His unending, unconditional love, grace and mercy.
(28:1-17; 30:43; 31:11-13; 32:24-32; 33:1-20; 35:9-13)



2. God's constant faithfulness to His Word. (28:10-15; 33:18-20; 35:9-12)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Yesterday we looked at Jacob, his trip *From Jacob To Israel*. We would prefer a straight line path of ongoing spiritual growth — no zigzags along the way. Remember, some of our zigzags are self-inflicted and sinful while others are part of God's loving plan to make us more like Christ. Recall and list your *notable zigzags* in two columns: *Mine* and *God's*. Begin working through any unresolved feelings and actions relating to them.

Tuesday. Today take an overview look at the significant results on Jacob's trip (use the outline to guide you). What similarities do you see to your own experience? What lessons can you learn and apply from this?

Wednesday. God presents people in the Bible as they were — no retouched portraits. Review the dynamics involved in *Jacob's Zigzag to Israel*. Note both the strengths and weaknesses. What does this tell you about yourself? List some of your strengths and weaknesses. Thank God for what He has done in you and commit yourself to keep on growing.

Thursday. With all of the zigzags in life there is, thankfully, a straight line — it is God. God and His unending, unconditional love, grace and mercy, His constant faithfulness to His Word. This is true for you today. Accept it and thank God for it.

Friday – Saturday. Sunday we plan to look at *Lessons from Jacob & Sons*, from Genesis chapter 37. Read the chapter as you prepare for our time of worship.

* The original idea for the “zigzag” came from a sermon by Dr. Donald R. Sunukjian.