Family Discipleship Resource
(Genesis 35:9-20)

G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

God, thank you for your faithfulness to your promises. Give me a heart that worships you in every single circumstance.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Genesis 35:9-20)

9 Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. 10 God said to him,

"Your name is Jacob;
You shall no longer be called Jacob,
But Israel shall be your name."

Thus He called him Israel. 11 God also said to him,

"I am God Almighty;
Be fruitful and multiply;
A nation and a company of nations shall come from you,
And kings shall come forth from you.
12 "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac,
I will give it to you,
And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

13 Then God went up from him in the place where He had spoken with him. 14 Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He had spoken with him, a pillar of stone, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. 15 So Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him, Bethel.

16 Then they journeyed from Bethel; and when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and she suffered severe labor. 17 When she was in severe labor the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for now you have another son." 18 It came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin. 19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). 20 Jacob set up a pillar over her grave; that is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

O – Observe what God has said

Why do you suppose God changes Jacob's name to Israel (which means to strive against God)?

How does the mention of Bethlehem foreshadow hope for God's people?

W – Work on Application

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This season ahead is going to come with many confirming evidences of God's blessing for which it will be easy to exalt his name. However, this season will also inevitably come with difficulties, set-backs, and trying episodes that will test us in any number of ways. Will the pillar of praise and reliance on the Lord be raised even then? we will be found faithful to worship and praise our God no matter what and in that serve as a testimony to those that will be looking on and the many guests who we will serve? As we prepare and serve, will our attitude of worship testify to those we serve alongside that God is our strength and hope? Let's adopt a heart of worship that is all about the fulfillment of the promises given to Jacob—let's make it all about Jesus. When we make it all about Jesus, we always have a reason to praise and rejoice.

How might we encourage a heart of worship in our lives and the lives of others?

What promise from Scripture most encourages you?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: *"…Your name is Jacob; you shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name."-Gen. 35:10*