

# Series: Family of Light

## Session Title: Soup or Significance?

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed:

- ☐ Game questions or tasks
- ☐ Prizes of various worth
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Double-sided copies of pages A54-55
- ☐ Copies of page A56

### Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Develop some 'significance goals' that will shape their life purpose.
- Identify Esau as a man who was content with simple and meaningless things.
- Identify Jacob as a man who was desperate to live at the centre of God's promise and activity. He desired significance over 'soup'.
- Realize that living at the centre of God's promise and activity requires risk, faith, and the ability to delay gratification.
- Chose some ministries within and outside of the church that could be outlets for their kingdom ambitions. .
- Evaluate whether there are common interests and kingdom passions within the group.

### Pastoral Objectives:

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## Lead In:

This lesson asks a fundamental question: what are you living for: soup like Esau or significance like Jacob? The biblical narrative is about one man, Esau, who traded great things for meaningless things and one man, Jacob, who wrestled and strove his way into the very centre of Yahweh's great plan for humanity. One man wanted the stars; another was content with a bowl of soup.

A great way to introduce this concept is to play "Bigger and Better" from The Price is Right. The game is pretty simple. Create a task or a set of questions (which could be competition based, such as "first person to bring me a sock from a leader" or question based, such as "Who was Jacob's first wife? Leah") and award a prize to the winner. The first prize should be small – like a sticker or a piece of candy. Then ask the student, "Would you like to quit the game now and hold on to your prize or would you like to compete again for a larger prize? If you lose or get it wrong you will lose your original prize but if you get it right you will earn something greater. What do you want to do?" Have bigger and better prizes.

You might wrap up the game by asking: What can happen when we risk? You could win it all or you could lose it all. What makes some people willing to go for the big prize and other people content with small gains? Is ambition a good thing or a bad thing for Christians?

## Task One Instructions:

Have students gather in small groups with one leader per group. Hand out double-sided copies of pages A54-55. Ask students to begin with the side that says "Soup or Significance?" at the top. Students need to read the story of Jacob and Esau and then answer three comprehension questions. Assign a time limit (approximately fifteen minutes).

When the students are finished, have them poll their answers to find the most common ones and guide them towards appropriate answers.

## Task Two Instructions:

Ephesians 2:10 states that, "We are who he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." We were created to live at the centre of God's promise and to be a partner for him in the kingdom business. There was a lot Jacob didn't know about God or even about basic human kindness but he knew one thing. He knew that life was better at the centre of God's promise and he knew that that was where he wanted to live.

Distribute the second handout (page A56), which says "Life at the Centre of God's Promises" at the top. Have students follow the instructions on the page and complete the tasks. At the end, gather the whole group (if you divided them) and have them determine

common ministry interests among the larger group. You might choose to pray for this or to plan a next step for a common ministry passion.

## Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

*Not everything Jacob said or did should serve as a positive example to us. He lied, cheated, stole, and was not the world's greatest brother or son. The Bible holds him up as an example of humanity in its true form. We are not perfect people but God joins himself to us anyway. What Jacob did know that should be something we take careful notice of is that life is best at the very centre of God's purposes. Why would you want to live for anything else? Everything else is just a cup of soup. The Apostle Paul expressed the same sentiment when he said, "life is more than food or drink." (Matthew 6:25) Do you want to live for something more? Figure out who God made you to be! What are you passionate about? What are you gifted at? What intersection is there between God's purposes and your passions? Live in that place! Make that place your home! There is no better place than the land of promise and purpose.*