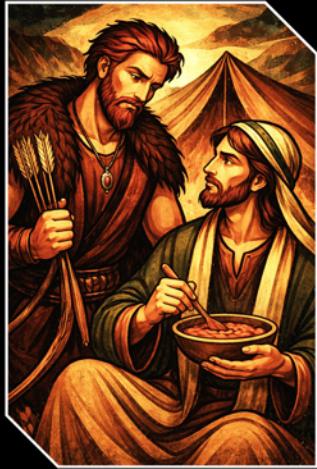




Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
18 JANUARY 2026



The Face of God
Addressing False Narratives
About God's Character

GENESIS 33: 1-10

Read Genesis 33:1-10

Opening: Have you ever had an experience where someone's reputation didn't match who they actually were when you met them? What was that like?

This week's sermon challenged us to examine the "reviews" we've heard about God versus the reality of who He truly is. Through Jacob's reunion with Esau, we discover that the face of God is far different from the harsh narratives many carry.

Examining Our Narratives About God:

- What "reviews" about God did you grow up hearing? Were they mostly positive, negative, or mixed? How have those early messages shaped your view of God today?
- Of the negative reviews mentioned in the sermon (God as angry, vindictive, distant, etc.), which one have you struggled with most? Why do you think that particular narrative has stuck with you?
- In **Genesis 33:1-11**, what do you notice about Esau's response to Jacob?

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Five False Narratives: For each false narrative, discuss the corresponding reality:

False Narrative #1: “God is always angry at what we do.”

Reality: God runs to embrace us.

- **Read Luke 15:11-24** (The Prodigal Son). What details in this parable reveal the father’s heart toward his son? How does this challenge or confirm your view of God’s disposition toward you?
- The sermon quoted Psalm 30:5: “His anger is fleeting, but His favor lasts a lifetime.” How does this verse reframe the balance between God’s discipline and His love?

False Narrative #2: “God won’t fully forgive my past.”

Reality: God forgives comprehensively - past, present, future.

- Jacob waited 20 years to face Esau. Why is it sometimes harder to believe forgiveness is real, even long after something is done?
- Is there something in your past you struggle to believe God has **fully** forgiven? (Share only what you’re comfortable with.) What makes it hard to accept His complete forgiveness?
- **Read Micah 7:18-19.** What specific actions does God take with our sins according to this passage? How complete is His forgiveness?

False Narrative #3: “God is cold, distant, and indifferent.”

Reality: God is emotionally and joyfully invested in me.

- **Read Zephaniah 3:17.** What emotions does God express toward His people in this verse? How does this contrast with the “distant God” narrative?
- When was the last time you felt God’s delight in you? What prevents us from experiencing or believing in God’s joy over us?



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False Narrative #4: “God will reject me.”

Reality: God accepts me.

- **Read John 6:37.** What promise does Jesus make in this verse? What would it look like to truly believe you could never be driven away?
- Why do you think the older brother in the Prodigal Son story was so angry? Do you ever relate to his perspective? What does this reveal about our understanding of grace?

False Narrative #5: “I need to do a lot to pacify God.”

Reality: God gives grace instead of requiring certain activities to earn his favor.

- What “gifts” or “works” do people bring to God to earn His favor?
- **Read Romans 11:35 and Psalm 50:12.** What do these verses teach us about what God needs from us?

Closing Reflection:

Jeremiah 31:3 says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love.” What are the implications of this verse when it comes to so many of the false narratives we have heard about God?

A.W. Tozer wrote: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

- Do you agree/disagree with Tozer?
- What is currently coming into your mind when you think about God? What narratives need to change?
- What truth about God’s face do you need to embrace this week?



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