

MAIN POINT

Because God's power is made perfect in our weaknesses, we can "rename" our sorrows for His glory.

INTRODUCTION

How does hardship come to shape who we are as people?

What is one thing God has used in your life to make you the person you have become today?

The time after Jacob was renamed by God were not easy years for his family. Absent is the blessing and fruitful multiplication that we see in earlier sections of Jacob's story. Here we find more hardship than physical blessing. Following God does not always promise an easy path, but it does show a path that is full of the grace and mercy of God. God used these experiences to further shape Jacob into His image and reaffirmed all of His promises to Jacob in the middle of this hardship.

DISCUSSION

> **READ GENESIS 35:16-18 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10.**

Why did Jacob rename Benjamin?

Based on your own life experiences, what are some of the emotions that you imagine Jacob felt during this difficult season of his life?

As we discussed in this week's message, what are some areas of pain you need to "rename" according to God's purposes in those hard seasons?

How do our weaknesses remind us that we cannot boast in ourselves?

Name some ways that God gives us grace and strength to live with our weaknesses. How did He do this in the life of Paul?

How do the Lord's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9 help us respond to the "health, wealth, and success" gospel that is often marketed today?

What do we learn from 2 Corinthians 12 about the value of persistent prayer in relation to our weaknesses and problems?

How does the Christian perspective on power and weakness differ from the world's perspective?

APPLICATION

How might you "rename" your weaknesses and hardship in a way that exalts Christ?