



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 014: Jacob Comes Full Circle

Genesis 35 (<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2035&version=NIV>)

A new name, a new identity, a new life—no longer is he Jacob “the cheat.” Now He is Israel “he who struggles.” It’s time to put the past behind and blaze a new trail. And he knows just where he has to start: the “foreign gods” his wives and children grew up with have got to go. Jacob and his family must stop hauling around these idols and bury them forever.

Even today people grow up and live with foreign gods. Jacob’s god was selfish deception; for others it is money, sex, alcohol, possessions, prestige, or power.

- Name some other foreign gods you have seen people use.
- How can you decide if something in your life is healthy or a foreign god?
- What foreign gods are hindering you from walking more closely with God?
- Why is it so hard to leave these crutches behind?

Jesus Christ came to this world to save us from God’s wrath for our stubborn devotion to these foreign gods. Throughout His earthly life He leaned upon His Heavenly Father alone. Even while He was suffering the dark despair of the cross He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46b). The little word “My” shows that even though the Father forsook Him, Jesus still held on.

Having satisfied God’s wrath our risen Lord gives us this promise and assurance, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). The yoke this passage describes connected two oxen together to pull a plow or other heavy farm implement. Here Jesus invites us to team up with Him as He pulls the full weight of our load—we need only walk at His side.

- How can you use this promise to encourage someone to leave false crutches behind and lean on the Lord?

At the close of today’s video we spoke of Rachel’s death at Bethlehem on the way to Ephrath. We will pause at this little town for the next several sessions and take a closer look at the events of our Savior’s birth and check out some more stuff they didn’t teach us in Sunday school about Christmas.