

# Discussion Guide

## *MADE: wk4 Success*

August 27, 2023



### Big Idea

Unlike worldly success, God's love & blessing are gifts to be received, not goals to be earned.



### Icebreaker

What is your favorite room in your home & why?



### Discussion Questions

1. At various stages of our lives, we tend to define success in different ways & pursue it in different avenues of life. Looking back on *your* life, up to & including the present, how have (or do) you define success and how have (or do) you pursue success? Is this inherently bad or ungodly? What do you think makes it tip to being idolatry?
2. Recap the sermon a little as follows: what were some successes that Jacob achieved in his life, only to find himself still unsatisfied? Looking back, what was an area of *your* life where you reached a level of success only to find yourself unsatisfied?
3. Read Genesis 25:27-28. What do we potentially see here that Jacob may have lacked regarding his relationship with his father? How do you think that influenced Jacob's striving for success? What was, or is, a setting/relationship from your life where you can relate to how Jacob related to his father (i.e. where are you perhaps treated or feel the same as he must have?); What is one's best response to such a set of circumstances and why?
4. Read Genesis 32:22-32. From this passage, how & with whom did Jacob's search for love and acceptance end? What actions of Jacob led to his finding of this love and acceptance (think about the events immediately before this scene as well as those during it)? What does this scene reveal to us about God that can be applied to our own relationship with Him?
5. Do you see the validity in, and agree with, the following Timothy Keller quote and why or why not?

*"The idols in our lives don't need to be destroyed, they need to be replaced."*

Backing up your answer up to the following question with examples...do you think this quote is true of all idols or just some and why?



### Concluding Question

Read Genesis 35:1-4. Reflect on this entire sermon series by sharing maybe which of the weeks topic was most impactful to you and why (wk1: Relationships, wk2: Technology, wk3: Money, and wk4: Success). Is the "burying" of idols something we do one time or not, and why? If you were encouraged, or moved, by the act in church service of burying the "idols", share that and what made it such.



### Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

### Prayer

On (9/10) we will begin our All Church Journey (Sunday Sermons, Daily Journals, Small Groups, etc.) called "The Core". Also, other Fall 2023 Ministry launches will take place across campuses in September; not to mention the 3 Fall Retreats (Youth, Women's, Men's). Pray for all such things in this season to be impactful for the church body!

