



# GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1. ***Review Gospel Appointment documents and distribute people to follow-up with from planning center.***
2. **WhizKids** - WE ARE LOOKING FOR TUTORS! We started a faith-based tutoring program with the hope of making a difference in the lives of under-privileged children who are struggling academically. We're excited to continue our partnership with Moreau Heights Elementary.
  - **Want more info? Check out [somajc.org/whizkids/](http://somajc.org/whizkids/)**
3. **Volunteers** — Not only does the body of Christ grow stronger, so does the spiritual life of the individual believer. You can make a difference in the lives of others – begin sharing your time and talents today! There are many opportunities waiting for you, on a weekly or rotating basis – and 95% of them take less than two hours per week. We have a team ready to help you find the perfect fit.
  - **Want to help? Text “Help” (573) 363-4166**
4. **Jake and Carlie Wise** — a Message from Jake: Friends and family: Carlie is immunosuppressed after transplant, so if you plan to visit us in STL in the next weeks or months or see her over the holidays please make sure to get your flu shot. It should be free at your local Walgreens, CVS, or Dierbergs. I think HyVee offers it too but at least in SGF there was an copay. Thanks! I will ask before you visit; it's very serious. Love to all!
  - **If you would like to donate please bring it Sunday morning or go to [somajc.org/give](http://somajc.org/give) and click the tab for Jake and Carlie. Thank you so much for your generosity!**
5. **Affordable Christmas** — Affordable Christmas is our holiday project that offers a dignified way to help under-resourced parents that we already work with to provide a comfortable and joyful Christmas for their children. Rather than giving away gifts, we work effectively to provide families with a unique experience. This is birthed out of relationships with those we love – relationships with people who were not looking for someone to feel sorry for them, but rather desired an opportunity to provide Christmas for their families.
  - **We will have AC December 7th 9a - 2p**

# QUESTIONS

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Read Genesis 30:25-31:25

After Joseph was born we begin to see Jacob thinking more and more about going home to his family (30:26). Laban puts on the pout and melts Jacobs heart. But Jacob allows Laban to convince him to stay, under Jacobs conditions (30:26).

Laban agrees!

Hmm-

1. Have you ever won an argument, or received something you've really, really wanted only to find out that you really, really wish you hadn't wanted it?
2. How would you describe Laban's behavior up to this point?

Jacob was obviously an expert herdsman. He understood how to care for and increase the herd. It isn't completely clear why the stripped branches had an effect on the goats. But one thing is clear- God had already decided how the newborn goats would look. In 31:10-13 we learn that Jacob had been told by God that the goats would be born speckled giving Jacob an even greater herd (under the deal with Laban), AND that God was blessing Jacob because he responded to him at Bethel years ago.

Sometimes the things that happen in our lives, even if they are negative events are actually subtle promptings to get busy doing what we know we have been called to do.

After mulling over the past 20 years of living in Haran dealing with Laban and his increasingly strange antics, Jacob finally had enough! (Gen. 31:5). He recalls God talking to him in a dream some 20 years earlier as he left Beersheba (28:10-15) where he anointed the location and called it Bethel.

God visits him once more (31:3) to say – get your butt home! So, he loaded up the truck and he moved to Beverly...(he packs up everything he owns along with his immediate family's) and heads back to the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob. Jacob had remembered his Bethel. His first encounter with God.

3. Do you remember the first time God spoke to you? Could you share this time with the group?
4. What are some of the “smelly goats” in your life that ought to be recognized as blessings?

Although Jacob demonstrated some desire to get even with Laban, we see more desire for peaceful resolution in the family than anything else. God had laid a clear direction for Jacob and nothing would distract from the destiny he felt in his heart.

5. What do we learn about God from this story?