

# AWESOME GOD

Group Guide: Week 5

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## CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What does your name mean?
- Have you ever had a nickname? How did you get it?

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## READ & DISCUSS UNDERSTAND & APPLY THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

This is the fifth week in our *Awesome God* series, where we've been looking at some of the ways God described Himself to His people. As we approach the year ahead in the faith that God is beside us, we want to press in to know more about the God who we're asking to be with us!

This week, we'll be reading about God showing himself to Jacob. God tells Jacob that he is "God Almighty." But it's not just that God is powerful; it's that he uses his power in a particular way. Along with Jacob, we'll be taking this week to meditate on how God uses his power to *transform our struggle into purpose*.

READ	DISCUSS
Genesis 35:9	God's appearance brings <i>blessing</i> . If you're at all familiar with the Jacob story, though, you'll know that Jacob didn't have a perfectly smooth ride to blessing—even right before this passage, his family was on the brink of going to war. Jacob's life was not easy.
Genesis 35:10	God gives Jacob a new name: "Israel," which means "strives with God." God's first blessing to Jacob is to give him a new name and identity, one that isn't harmed by his struggling and striving, but that <i>flowed out of</i> that striving. Even Jacob's difficulties were blessings, not curses, because they made him who God had called him to be. Are there difficulties in your own life you have trouble understanding? Might God be shaping you with them? Who might God be shaping you to be?
Genesis 35:11-15	But God's blessing for Jacob isn't just for him; it's for God's mission. If you go back and read Genesis 1:28, you'll see God is asking Jacob to use his blessing to continue the mission of what humanity was meant to be: a blessing to one another and to the world. How can you use the ways God has blessed you to fulfill his mission? If you've been baptized—"born again"—you have a new identity, just like Jacob. You have the identity of Christ. How can you live that identity out?

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## PRAY RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

Meditate on what God calls himself in this passage: "God Almighty." It's easy for us as modern Christians to take God for granted and forget what Scripture would call a holy fear of him. Meditate on his power and majesty, and worship him for it. Thank him that he uses his power for blessing, and ask that you would have the grace to do the same.

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## ONE MORE THING . . . THE ALETHEIA BIBLE READING PLAN

Over the next few weeks, we at Aletheia are going to be embarking on a Bible reading plan together! We'll be sending details out soon, but for now, take a few moments at the end of your group and talk about people's bible reading habits. How often are you reading the Bible right now? Has your relationship with God benefited from regular times of reading Scripture? Our hope and prayer is that this reading plan will be a blessing to you and your group as you seek to hear God's voice more clearly! Join with us this week in praying for us as a church to hear God's voice in his word.

### **Discipleship Check-In**

- Have you read your Bible and prayed consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?