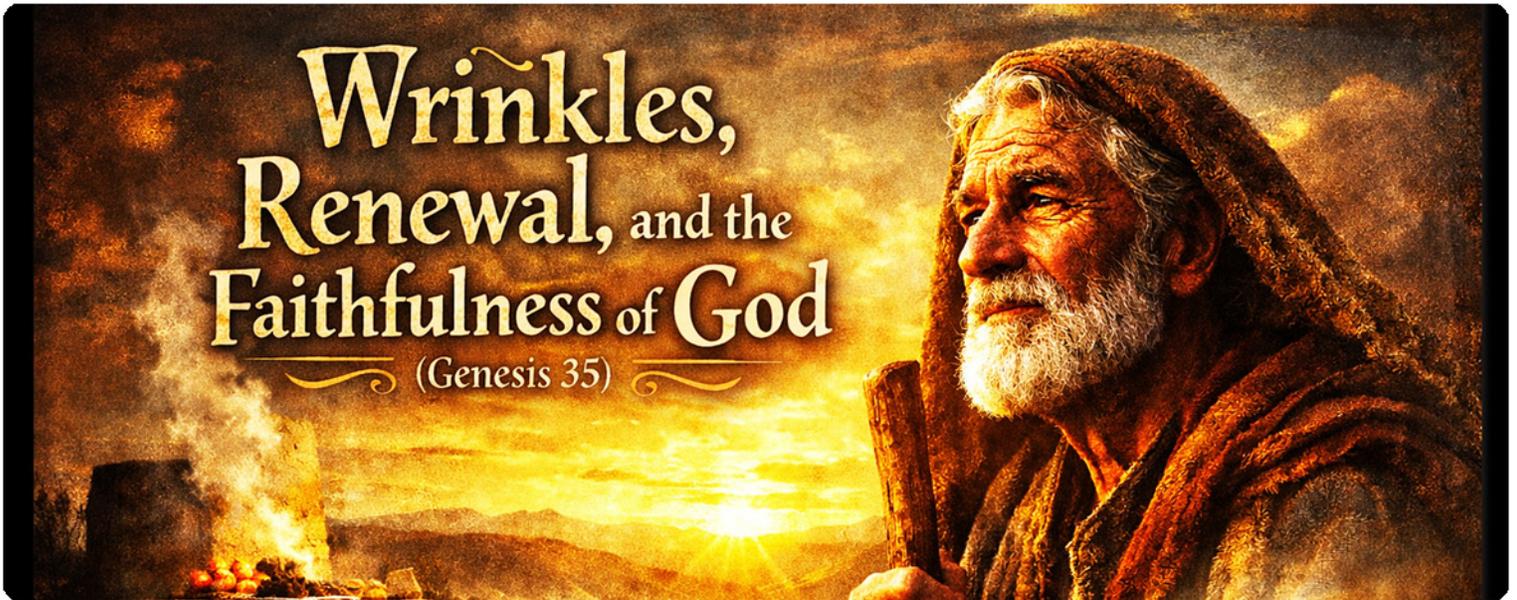




Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
1 FEBRUARY 2026



Read Genesis 35

Opening: When you hear the phrase “maturing in the Lord,” what comes to mind? How is that different from simply getting older? See 2 Corinthians 4:16

Remembering God’s Faithfulness (Genesis 35:1–5)

Text Focus: Genesis 35:1–3; Genesis 28:13–15; Job 12:12

1) God calls Jacob back to Bethel—the place where He first met him. Why do you think God often calls His people to remember earlier moments of grace? See *Deuteronomy 8:2; Psalm 77:11*

2) Compare Jacob’s words in Genesis 28:20–22 (“If God will be with me...”) with Genesis 35:3 (“the God who answers me...”).

- What has changed in Jacob’s faith?
- What does this tell us about how faith matures over time?

3) Looking back on your own life, where can you clearly see God’s faithfulness now that you could not see in the moment?

4) Do you think bitterness often grows when reflection on God’s faithfulness fades? Why? What does *Hebrews 12:15* say about bitterness growing in our lives?

Wrinkles, Renewal, and the Faithfulness of God

1 FEBRUARY 2026

Application: What practical habits can help us regularly “remember” God’s work in our lives before bitterness has time to take root?

Renewed Commitment to Holiness (Genesis 35:2–7)

5) Jacob commands his household to put away idols, purify themselves, and change garments. What might this look like in the 21st century?

6) The idols in Jacob’s household had been tolerated for years. What kinds of “respectable” or culturally accepted idols are easy to tolerate today? *See Colossians 3:5.*

7) What does changing garments symbolize in Scripture, and why is this imagery so powerful? *See Zechariah 3:3–5; Romans 13:14*

Application: Is there anything God may be calling you to “bury under the oak tree” (Gen. 35:4)—something that once felt harmless but now hinders deeper devotion?

Guiding Others Toward Godliness (Genesis 35:5–15)

8) As Jacob matures, his concern increasingly shifts from himself to his family’s walk with God. Why does spiritual maturity naturally move outward? *See Psalm 78:4–7*

9) Psalm 92 says the righteous “still bear fruit in old age.” What kind of fruit is this Psalm describing?

10) How can older believers guide others toward godliness without becoming controlling or discouraging?

11) Younger participants: What do you think older believers most hope you will understand about faith that only time can teach?

Older participants: What do you hope the next generation carries forward from your life with God?



Wrinkles, Renewal, and the Faithfulness of God

1 FEBRUARY 2026

Looking Ahead (Genesis 35:8, 16–29)

12) Jacob buries loved ones but also sees his sons listed—his legacy. How does Scripture balance grief with hope for what continues after us?

13) Psalm 112:1-3 promises blessing to future generations of those who fear the Lord. How does this shape the way we view our daily faithfulness?

Application: If God uses your life long after you are gone, what do you most hope remains in the people you've influenced?

Closing: What does “finishing well” look like in this season of your life?

