

1. What encouraged or challenged you the most in this week's sermon?
2. What major doctrines were presented in the message?

Here at the Yorktown campus, Pastor Andrew mentioned the doctrine of election and predestination. This is a doctrine in the Bible that asserts God chooses to save people based on His own unchanging character, not because of anything good in man. According to Ephesians 2, man is dead in his sins. Not only is man dead in his sins, but he is an enemy of God. If let to ourselves, we hate God and would never choose to worship Him. So, God in His loving-kindness, chose who He would save before He even created the world. We see this doctrine in Genesis 27-28, in Romans 9, and in Ephesians 1 and 2.

3. What does the passage teach you about God?

It teaches us that God is unchanging and that His plans are never thwarted. God chose to bless man with salvation not because of man, but because of His good character. This passage teaches us that God is just, God is sovereign, God is kind, God is forbearing, and that God plans, seeks, accomplishes, and perseveres His people no matter who they are or what they do. Spend time in group talking through those characteristics of God (sovereignty; kindness; forbearance) and how God saves completely.

4. What does the passage teach you about man?

Man is undeserving. God chose Jacob not because Jacob was a great guy (on the contrary, Jacob is a scoundrel. God saved Jacob in spite of Jacob's sins and wickedness. Man is undeserving of salvation. This would be a great time to share testimonies about how undeserving you were. Salvation is a complete gift from the Lord unmerited by us (Ephesians 2:8-9).

5. How do you see the gospel narrative unfolding in this passage of Scripture?

Just as God chose Jacob and not Esau, so has God chosen a people for Himself. These people are called Christians or Israel. Spiritual Israel is made up of God's people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

6. What application points in the sermon were most challenging or uplifting to you?

7. How has today's sermon changed you?