



Group Discussion Questions

Genesis Series - Esau & Jacob - August 10 & 13, 2017

Share a story of when you had stitches or a cast from a broken bone or braces when you were a kid and the pain and frustration you experienced.

Read aloud: Genesis 32:3 - 33:4

Read Gen. 25:28, do you think the parents had anything to do with the rivalry that Jacob and Esau experienced? Why?

Review the blessing that Jacob stole from Esau and his response, Gen. 27:41-45. The blessing was important because it was looked at as the predictive future of a person's life. So, Jacob didn't just steal some nice words but real tangible wealth and master/servant relationship. Rebekah is so worried about Esau's anger that she thinks he'll kill Jacob and so she sends Jacob to the city of Haran in Mesopotamia to stay with her brother Laban.

What is sibling rivalry and can you name siblings throughout history that devolved into conflict like Jacob and Esau?

Do you have a success story of resolving conflict in your family? Can you share just the successful part without going into the conflict or pain in detail?

As Jacob prepares to meet Esau he prays to God and reminds Him of His promises to Abraham, Isaac and himself. The he blurts out, "DELIVER ME!" Have you ever prayed like that to God? Have you ever felt like you were begging God for His help? God provides a weird answer to Jacob's prayer and wrestles with him to humble him. Does your prayer time ever humble you and make you feel more dependent on God?

As Jacob moves to the front of his caravan to Esau, Esau sees Jacob limping. Do you think Jacob's limping changed Esau's heart? How?

The permanent gift that Esau gives Jacob is reconciliation. Have you ever witnessed reconciliation between people (please don't give names?)

Family Time: Try praying blessing into your children's lives. When you pray at dinner or put them to bed try praying something like this, "Father, I pray your blessing on ... (name them) I ask you to bless their minds so they can learn, bless their bodies so they can be healthy, bless their spirits so they feel your presence and can worship you at church."