

# Lessons of Faith from Jacob

27.8.23

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***Remember: you do not have to do the entire study (you may not have time) – you can choose what questions you want to discuss.***

## **Read Genesis 25:19-34**

1. What can you remember of the story of Jacob's life? What is your impression of him and his character?
2. Why is he such an important character in the bible?
3. Why was the relationship between Esau and Jacob fractious?
4. Why do you think Jacob asked for the birthright? What does this episode teach us about Jacob?
5. Why did God end up blessing Jacob? Why did he sanction Jacob's stealing of Esau's birthright?
6. On what other occasions does God favour the younger child over the older? What does this tell us about God?

## **Read Genesis 29:13-30**

7. How did Laban trick Jacob? What does that suggest about Jacob? What does it suggest about sin and its consequences?
8. When has your faith in God been tested like Jacob's was with Rachel? What happened? How were you changed as a result?

## **Read Genesis 32:24-32**

9. What does Jacob's new name, Israel, mean? Why is this significant?
10. What does it mean to wrestle with God and to have God wrestle with you? When does this happen in your life? Why?
11. What do you think Jacob had learned by the time he came to bless his children and grandchildren? How do you think his faith had grown in his final years?
12. How is Jacob's life a cautionary tale for us?
13. How does his life show us that God still loves and cares for us even when we sin?

## Prayer points:

- Pray for the plight of refugees, the homeless, and the displaced around the world.
- Pray for the two families from Afghanistan that are heading to us.
- Pray for those affected by violence and conflict and climate change around the globe.