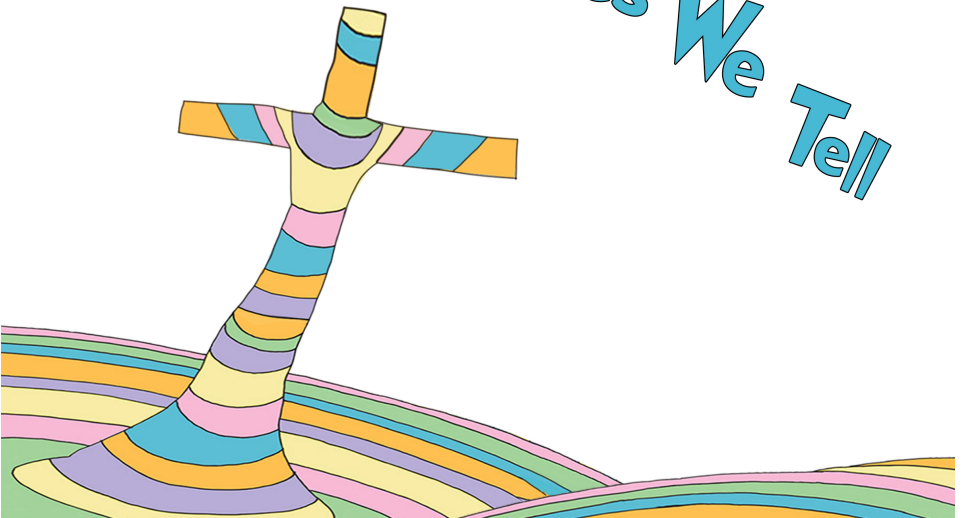


Community Group Discussion 06.28 - 07.26

# Oh, The Stories We Tell



## ***Oh, The Stories We Tell***

*This series is uniquely designed for kids, students, and adults. Below you will see discussion questions for all Community Groups, as well as studies and activities for families to use with their students or kids.*

## **Group Discussion**

*Genesis 25:24-34, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Galatians 3:26-29, 2 Corinthians 5:21*

1. Either we control our appetites or our appetites control us. What appetites — or desires in your life — do you struggle to control the most?
2. “God created our appetites, but sin distorted and disordered them.” How have you seen good healthy appetites distorted into something bad or dangerous? Are there any disordered desires in your heart?
3. “Impact Bias,” is when your brain blows an appetite out of proportion and tells you something is going to be way better than it actually will be. Have you ever experienced this with something?
4. Five years from now, where do you hope to be and what do you hope to be doing? What appetite, if left unchecked, is the biggest threat to that future? What will help you grow in self-control to manage that appetite?
5. Read Galatians 3:26-29. Esau made a bad trade and it cost him his future. But Jesus offers us a better trade. He offers to take our sin and give us salvation. If you have made that trade and trusted Jesus, share when that happened and the reasons why. If you haven’t made that trade and trusted Jesus, what is holding you back right now?

## **Students: Middle & High School**

### **Icebreaker**

If you could have one food every day for the rest of the year in exchange for all the money you have, what would it be?

## Game (Optional)

### *Sibling/Family Trivia*

- With each question, Player One has to write down what they think Player Two would answer. If they are the same, you get a point.
- Come up with five to 10 questions. See how well you know your family.

## Questions

1. Read Genesis 25:29-34
2. What is one appetite in your life that you struggle to control/manage?
3. Where can you put up guardrails of self-control to ask, "Is it worth it?"
4. Challenge: We all need to grow in self-control of something (food, emotions, relationships, etc.). Share it with someone you trust & ask them to hold you accountable this week.

## Kids: Pre-School & Elementary

### SUPPORT LETTER

**Supplies needed:** Construction paper, markers, crayons.

**What to do:** Give a piece of construction paper and crayons/markers to your children. Instruct the kids to fold the paper like a card. Write the name of a person on the front of each of the kids' cards that they wish to encourage and appreciate! Help the kids write "We appreciate you!" on the inside and allow them to draw a picture or write an encouraging note as well.

**What You Say:** "After Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob, he left home to make sure Esau would not kill him. In the wilderness, God appeared to Jacob in a dream to encourage him and remind him of the promises God had made to Isaac and Abraham before him. These letters are to let this person know how much they mean to us and to give them some encouragement like God encouraged Jacob."

### HAIRY ARM CUFFS

**Supplies needed:** Paper towel tube/toilet paper tube, yarn, string, or strips of paper.

**What to do:** Cut paper towel tubes to the length of preschoolers' forearms.

Cut a slit along the length of the tube to form an arm cuff. Cut yarn into short lengths to serve as “hair.” Glue yarn to his or her arm cuff. Set the cuffs aside to dry.

**What you can say:** Rebekah put goat skins on Jacob’s hands and neck to make him seem hairy, like Esau. She told Jacob to pretend to be Esau. Jacob tricked Isaac, but God’s promises for Abraham and Isaac were promises for Jacob too. God planned to bless Jacob’s family and even a whole nation as part of His plan to bring Jesus, the Savior of the world.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Supplies Needed:** Bible.

**What to do:** Review the bible story using the following questions.

1. In his dream, Jacob saw a stairway going up to heaven. What are some ways people try to get to heaven? (Guide the kids to identify that people often try to get to heaven by doing good deeds. Point out that we can never be good enough to get to God on our own. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus.)
2. How did Esau react when he learned what Jacob had done? (Esau was very angry, wept loudly, and planned to kill Jacob)
3. How was God’s promise to Jacob similar to His promises to Isaac as Abraham? (Guide the kids to discuss the fact that God promised a large family and many blessings that would overflow and bless the world to all three men. God’s promise to Jacob was a continuation of His promises to Isaac and Abraham. This promise was kept through Jesus. Jesus is the blessing from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s family who blessed the whole world.)

**What you say:** “Before Jacob and Esau were born, God had a plan for the older son to serve the younger son. Does God keep His promises? God always keeps His promises because He is faithful.