

Small Group Guide

Jacob and Esau - Understanding and Combating Antisemitism

November 22, 2025

Key Scripture References

- Genesis 1:8-10 (Persecution begins in Egypt)
- Genesis 12:7; 15:18 (God's covenant with Abraham)
- Genesis 26:2-5 (Covenant confirmed with Isaac)
- Genesis 28:13-15 (Covenant confirmed with Jacob)
- Galatians 3:6-8 (Children of Abraham through faith)
- Jeremiah 31:34-36 (Israel's eternal status)

Key Takeaways

1. **The Jewish people remain the "apple of God's eye"** despite centuries of persecution, and God's covenants with them are irrevocable.
2. **"Chosen" means chosen for a task** – to be a blessing to all nations and bring knowledge of the Messiah to the world, not chosen for privilege or superiority.
3. **Antisemitism is ultimately spiritual warfare** – Satan wants to prevent Jewish people from proclaiming "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" because this relates to Yeshua's return.
4. **The land covenant was made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob** and cannot be transferred away from the Jewish people, though believers are grafted into these blessings.
5. **Christians engaging in antisemitism is intolerable** – we worship a Jewish Messiah, follow Jewish apostles, and our faith is rooted in Jewish Scripture.

Discussion Questions

1. Before this message, what was your understanding of antisemitism? How has this message changed or expanded your perspective?

2. The pastor mentioned that Jewish people represent only 0.2% of the global population, yet face disproportionate hatred and scrutiny. Why do you think this is?
3. How does understanding the story of Jacob and Esau help us understand ongoing conflicts involving Israel and the Jewish people today?
4. Read Jeremiah 31:34-36 together. What does this passage tell us about God's eternal commitment to the Jewish people? How should this shape our attitudes?
5. Discuss the difference between "replacement theology" also known as "fulfillment theology" (the idea that the Church has replaced Israel) and the "grafting in" theology described in Romans 11. Why does this distinction matter?
6. The pastor said that being "chosen" means being chosen for a task, not for privilege. How does this understanding challenge common misconceptions about Jewish "chosenness"?
7. Have you witnessed antisemitism in your community, workplace, or even in church settings? How did it make you feel? How did you (or could you have) responded?
8. The pastor mentioned that some Christians now align with antisemitic rhetoric, even from the extreme right. How can we discern when political or social positions cross the line into opposing God's purposes?
9. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable would you feel speaking up against antisemitism in your social circles? What barriers hold you back?
10. Read Genesis 12:3: "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you." How should this promise influence our personal and collective actions toward Jewish people?
11. The pastor said we should pray for those deceived by Satan who come against Jewish people. How do we balance truth-telling with grace when confronting antisemitism?