

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 26

1. What did the Lord tell Isaac he would do if Isaac stayed in Gerar for awhile, the land where the Lord told him to live? Genesis 26:2-4

2. In verse five, God says that Isaac and his descendants will be blessed because of Abraham's obedience. We know that Abraham did not keep all of God's laws perfectly. Why was Abraham considered righteous? Read Genesis 15:6, Romans 4:1-3 and Romans 4:18-22. Where do we get our righteousness? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

3. While in Gerar, Isaac was asked about his wife Rebekah and he lied telling them that she was his sister. Who else responded the same when fearful? Genesis 12:11-13, 20:1-4. In what ways are you tempted to sin when you are fearful, anxious or trying to protect yourself?

4. Abimelech wanted to make an agreement with Isaac because it was evident that the Lord was with Isaac. You may not have wealth or power, but in what ways is it evident that the Lord is with you?

5. We know that Isaac didn't live a perfect life, yet despite his shortcomings was blessed and used by God. What did Abraham and Isaac's obedience/actions display when they obeyed God? Read James 2:18-22

6. While obedience and good works do not save us, true faith in Jesus Christ results in good works and a life that is being changed. Can you see some changes in your life, if so, what are they? What good works do you do, and why (*motives*) do you do them?

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 27 and 28:1-9

1. Reviewing the circumstances of Esau's and Jacob's birth (see Genesis 25:21-28), and seeing some of the life choices that Esau made (Genesis 26:34-35), why might Isaac and Rebekah differ in their opinions as to which son should receive their father's blessing?

2. What is the father's "blessing"? The text makes the assumption that a blessing is very important, but this concept is foreign to us. What can you discern about the nature and power of a blessing from these verses?

3. How does Rebekah know of Isaac's plan to bless Esau before Isaac dies? In what other ways, in chapter 27, does Rebekah act as a deceiver?

4. What were the consequences of both Rebekah's and Jacob's lying and deceiving on both Isaac and Esau? (see verses 33-41)

5. As Jacob is willing to obey his father's and mother's wish to NOT marry a Canaanite woman, he also receives even more blessings from Isaac; what are these (chapter 28)?

6. We too, as believers in Christ, are also connected to cursings and blessings; see Galatians 3:13-14 to determine who has been blessed and who has been cursed and how.

7. Read Isaiah 45:5-13, and Romans 9:6-23, and answer 'how is it that God chooses to have mercy on some, but not to have mercy on others?' How does this give us hope?

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 28:10-29:14

1. The Lord appeared to Jacob in a dream. What or *who* do you think the ladder/stairway represents (look at Genesis 28:12-15 and *John 1:51)? What do you think God wanted Jacob to know about him? Genesis 28:16, 17

2. God promised the same blessings to Jacob that he promised Abraham and Isaac. What else does he promise Jacob? Genesis 28:15

3. Jacob took the stone that was under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on it. What does this represent? Leviticus 8:10-12, Exodus 40:9, Numbers 7:1, 1 Samuel 7:12

4. Contrast Jacob's reaction to God promises, Genesis 28:20-22 to his grandfather Abraham's in Genesis 15:6.

5. Some believe that Jacob was bargaining with God in 28:20-22 and would only acknowledge God if God did as he asked, yet God's promises to Jacob were unconditional. Do you find it hard to believe God's promises unless he does his part first or if things don't go the way you had expected? Give an example.

6. Jacob's meeting Rachel at the well was similar to that of Abraham's servant finding Rebekah for Isaac. What could Isaac have learned from his father's servant before sending Jacob away to find a wife? Genesis 24:12-14

**Reformation Study Bible Note:* The meeting place between Heaven and earth points forward to Jesus Christ, the God-Man who reunites Heaven and earth. Through Christ, the only mediator between God and men, we have access to the Father.

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 29:15-30:43

1. By the end of chapter 30, we have a character study of Laban. Describe him in a few words. How was Laban's deceit with Jacob parallel to Jacob's deceit with his family?

2. You may have worked for a boss like Laban; how does Jacob work for or around him? How do we maintain our ethical behavior in an unfair situation (is Jacob a good role model)?

3. Jacob has promised (28:21) that the Lord will be his God. Yet chapters 29 and 30 reveal three people who make other things their God beside the Lord. What does Jacob make into "an idol"? What is Rachel's idol? What is Leah's idol?

4. What did God teach Leah through her difficult marriage? Does Leah's story speak to you on a personal level? What is God trying to teach you about your intimate relationships?

5. Do you know the meaning of your first name? How do the names of Leah's sons reflect Leah's changing relationship with God? (Genesis 29 :31-35)

6. Just as the males in Genesis have been mixed role models, the women - Eve, Sarah, the daughters of Lot, and now Rebekah and Leah - are examples of God's grace at work. Can you explain how God was gracious to each woman? What have they done to merit such grace?

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 31

1. What specific instructions did God tell Jacob to follow 'at once'? (verses 3 & 13) And did Jacob obey God in this?

2. After reading chapter 30 and seeing how Jacob worked to increase the number in his flock, what might be this 'change in attitude' that Laban and his sons have toward Jacob? To whom does Jacob credit his increase in livestock? (see verses 5-12)

3. From this chapter, list the different ways that Laban has also not acted rightly toward Jacob. (see verses 38-42)

4. Even though Jacob and Rachel (and household) did obey God's words, what types of wrong-doings or deceit did they still practice? (verses 19-21) What reason does Jacob give for his deceit and do you think he was justified in what he did?

5. What is the real problem between Jacob and Laban—as typified in Laban's "take" on things in verse 43? What does each of them (Jacob and Laban) commit to by vow in their covenant at Mizpah? And what is God's role in that covenant agreement?

6. How is God's role in all this chapter an encouragement for you?

7. Take some time to pray for your family relationships, both the healthy ones and the ones that may have animosity. How can you be a blessing to your family?

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 32

1. Jacob is now approaching the land of Esau his brother. What is his state of mind as he approaches? Think back to Jacob and Esau's last interaction- how does Jacob expect Esau to treat him?

2. What evidence of growth of character do we see as we read Jacob's prayer in verses 9-12?

3. Why do you think Jacob wanted to be alone? How is the mystery wrestler an unexpected answer to Jacob's prayer?

4. What does "Jacob" mean? What does "Israel" mean? What is the significance of his name being changed?

5. How does Jacob try to take matters into his own hands? (13-21) How do we behave like Jacob? Do we manipulate people into doing what we wish? Think of a present or past example. How can you repent and remember that it is God who fights for you and meets your needs?

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 33

1. Compare and contrast how Jacob greets Esau and how Esau greets Jacob. Have you ever been in a family dispute that lasted for years? How do you think this story gives us clues as to how God wants us to bring such disputes to an end?

2. Write about the change of heart Jacob and Esau go through. How has Esau changed from the time in Genesis 27:41 and Jacob from the time of Genesis 27:11-12?

3. Who does Jacob give credit to in verses 5 and 11? How have you learned (possibly the hard way!) to give credit to God for things that happen in your life?

4. "God had promised Jacob that "I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth.." (28:13-14). Why, then, is Jacob fearful about meeting his brother? Have you ever been in a place where you doubted what God had said to you? What comforted you or helped you come through that situation?"

5. In verse 20 Jacob builds an altar. Why is this a fitting end to the passage? El Elohe means the God of Israel or Mighty is the God of Israel.

Women's Bible Study
Genesis 35-36

1. The figure of the father in the history of Israel is intended to make us reflect on God the Father (Jacob keeps referring to "the God of my father"). How would you describe Jacob as a father? (33:5; 34:5; 34:13; 34:30; 35:2, 18, 22). How does Jacob compare to God the Father in scripture (Hosea 11:1-4, 2 Samuel 7:14, Matthew 7:11, Romans 8:15)?

2. What aspects of the covenant in 35:10-12 are stressed differently here than in the covenant promised to Jacob in 28:13-15? The one promised to Abram in 17:1-8? The one given to Adam in 1:28?

3. Describe Jacob's ACTIONS since he was a young man. Why did God pick him to receive these divine promises? How do you feel like Jacob? If you are stuck in answering these questions, see Romans 1:28-32, 2:10-18, 4:25, 9:6-15. Is there any action on Jacob's part that draws him close to God? Any that removes him from God's favor? Is Jacob a good role model for us (refer to Romans 6)?

4. The pause in chapter 36 is to explain some of Israel's later history, as well as to explain where the Messiah will come from. What are the promises made in the past to or concerning Esau? What is the future of his descendants? (see Genesis 25:23; 27:39; 28:6-9; 36:8, 31 (and note the time-line here); Deuteronomy 2:4-6; Ezekiel 35:15) Do you agree, as Wesley said, that "it is better to have Canaan in promise than Mt. Seir in possession"? What is our Canaan and our Mt. Seir?

5. We have been hearing about foreign gods that reside in Jacob's house. How are you susceptible to inviting foreign gods in to your heart? How are your own family and friends affected when you do this? How do you go about 'purifying' your house or heart?