

Week 3 (January 9-16)

Group Questions

Group 1: The Servant's Mission (Genesis 24 p47)

The servant wanted to know what to do if the woman he found wouldn't come back. He asked if he could bring Isaac. What was Abraham's response and why?

What did the servant do once he set out on his journey?

"Without a word, the man watched Rebekah closely" to learn what?

How did Laban address the servant?

When the servant wouldn't eat until he finished his business, what did he say about God and his master?

When the servant retold his story to Laban's family, he recounted his prayer: "Oh Lord, God of my master Abraham, \_\_\_\_\_, please grant success to the journey..."

"I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who..."

What was the answer of Laban and Bethuel?

**Application:**

Read Matthew 26:38-46. What does the servant's prayer have in common with Jesus'?

The servant got several physical signs. Other OT characters (Gideon, Abraham, Moses, Elijah) got them, too. Without signs like those, how does God help us make decisions? (see Luke 11:27-36)

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How can we ensure spiritual success on our missions for him?

What else can we learn from this story?

Group 2: Jacob and Esau: Best Friends! (Genesis 25:11-27:41 pp53-57)

Who was the first born?

Who was second?

Who was a outdoorsman?

Who hung around the tents?

Who had a taste for wild game and loved Esau?

Who preferred Jacob?

How did Esau feel about his birthright *before* he sold it?

How did he feel about it *after* he sold it?

Who did Esau marry?

How did Isaac and Rebekah feel about this?

Who promised to bear the curse if Jacob and Rebekah's plan was busted?

How did Esau feel about Jacob after the blessing fiasco?

What was Esau's plan after Isaac's death?

***Application***

Read Genesis 50:15-21. How does this story compare with Esau's plan? (If you've read ahead...how does Esau's plan turn out?)

Read Romans 9:12-14. Was this blessing situation fair?

Read Hebrews 12:15-17. What does unholiness or sexual immorality have to do with Esau?

What can we learn from these passages?

Group 3: Dealing with Difficult People: Conflict Resolution ()

Genesis 4:2b-9 (p7). What was a motivation for the first murder?

Genesis 12:11-13 (p25). Abram wanted Sarai to say she was her sister, "so that I will \_\_\_\_\_. How might you describe this Pharaoh?

Genesis 13:5-7 (p26). Why did Abram's herdsmen quarrel with Lot's herdsmen?

Genesis 14:21-24 (p28). What was Abram's attitude towards the riches offered by the king of Sodom?

Genesis 16:3-6 (p31). Why started the trouble between Sarai and Hagar?

Genesis 26:15-22 (p54). What did Isaac's servants argue about with the herdsmen of Gerar?

***Application***

Read Exodus 20:17 and Proverbs 12:12. If everyone you just read about followed these passages, what would have been different?

Read 1 Timothy 6:10 and Hebrews 13:4-6. What do we lose if we give in to materialism?

Read 1 Peter 2:23. What can we learn about solving problems from these examples?

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BETTER SEED THE PLATE, KID ... THE THOMSONS ARE SITTING UP FRONT AND THEY ARE BIG ONE-UPPERS