

BibleWise

Discussion Questions – Jacob and Esau

Read Genesis 25:20-34; 27:1-46; 28-29; 32-33

- Is this just a story about forgiveness?
- Who needs to be forgiven? [look deep]
- Why didn't Esau and Jacob get along?
- What is a "blessing"?
- What is a "birthright"?
- How do you think Esau felt when he didn't get the blessing? (Gen 27:38,41)
- What did Esau promise to do to Jacob? (Gen 27:41)
- Has anyone ever taken away something very important to you? What did you do?
- Who should have healed the rivalry between the two boys?
- Why should siblings get along with one another?
- If you can't get along with a brother or sister, how are you to get along with friends?
- When should we start to get along with our brothers or sisters?
- Whose responsibility is it to make sure siblings get along?
- What happened to Jacob and Esau?
- Why were they contentious?
- Who told Jacob to deceive Esau?
- What did Jacob have to do?
- Who was hurt by this deception?
- If you had been Esau, how would you have handled the situation?
- Do we ever benefit from deceiving someone?
- How does deception apply to our world today? Big business? Stock traders? Foreign affairs?
- What have you learned from this experience?
- What does the expression "what goes around comes around" mean in terms of Jacob's experience? [He deceived his dad and brother, and then his uncle deceived him on his wedding night and then again in the distribution of livestock.]
- What might Laban's conversation with Leah and Rachel before the wedding begins sound like?

- How do you think Leah and Rachel felt about the situation?
- How are Esau and Leah's situations similar? Rachel and Esau's situations?
- When does Jacob get his relationship with Esau straightened out? [After he got his relationship with God right]
- Why is it important to have a good relationship with God?
- Who needed to be forgiven? [There are a lot of people in these stories who need forgiveness]
- Who forgave?
- Who should have forgiven but didn't?
- Can you think of a time when you needed forgiveness or forgave someone?
- How did you feel when you were forgiven?
- How would you instruct someone in how to forgive?