

Building Faith | Genesis 26-28
2022 Summer #7- July 10th, 2022

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) Can you think of a time you told a lie? Did you get caught or get away with it?
- 2) Whose blessing or approval means the most to you? Parents, kids, pastor, co-workers, boss?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Genesis 26:1-16

- 1) How did the promises spoken to Isaac bring encouragement during the famine?
- 2) What else did God do to show Isaac his presence with him (Vs 12)?
- 3) How have God's promises or power comforted you in a past "famine"? How do you see his presence today?

Read Genesis 26:17-33

- 4) Trusting God is at work through the Holy Spirit's power and presence makes a difference in how we live. Isaac gave wells to his adversaries. How did giving wells to his adversaries show trust in God?
- 5) How did Isaac's actions help Abimelek see God's presence? How could my actions help another see God?

Read Genesis 26:34 -27:41

- 6) Jacob deceives Isaac and receives the firstborn blessing to rule over his brother. How did these wrong actions bring about God's plan (See 25:23)?
- 7) What do you learn about God's presence in the midst of man's poor choices?
- 8) Where am I rationalizing a wrong action because it may have a good outcome?

Read Genesis 28:1-22

- 9) After all his deception, Jacob was on his own, but God was still present with him. What fears and failures might Jacob have rehearsed on his first night without family?
- 10) How did God come to him and what might the image have meant to Jacob?

Read John 14

- 11) What did Jesus promise his followers? Why is it important that we recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance?
- 12) Where does Jesus tie our love for him with doing what he says to do. Where have you stopped short of doing what He said?" What is your next step?
- 13) We have the same type of promise of God's presence given to Isaac, how does this build your faith?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, "Where do I need to turn back and get back on track with your plans?"
- 2) Lord, "Do you want to show me your presence in a new way?"

For Further study

Read Romans 9:10-26 and Malachi 1:2-3 What could be meant by the phrase Jacob I loved and Esau I hated? How is the word "hate" used in other passages(Luke 14:26)? Could this statement be about something other than the personal salvation of Jacob and Esau? How does God's choice of Jacob, with dubious morals, reveal God's willingness to embrace sinners? How is mercy shown to both brothers?