

Genesis 25:19 – 34 Community Group Discussion Questions

Opening Question: *What thing are you most competitive over?*

The story of 2 brothers

Tell them: This week we saw that Genesis is filled with repetition, and there is a reason for that. Pastor Michael pointed out the repetition of brothers. First, we had Cain and Abel, then Ishmael and Isaac, now Esau and Jacob.” These relationships have much in common:

1. Just like financial inheritance, the inheritance of the Abrahamic promise went to the eldest sons; from Abraham to Isaac and then on to Esau (of course, we will see Jacob taking that from him.)
2. Just like there was a question of who that eldest son was for Abraham, so we see the same question for Isaac.
3. Just like it took a long time for Abraham and Sarah to have the child of the promise (100 years), it took Isaac and Rebekah 20 years to have their children.
4. Just like Isaac the younger son inherits the promise, so Jacob the younger son receives the promise.
5. Just like Ishmael and Isaac, and the two will become rival nations.

Ask them: *Why do you think God repeats the same kind of story for three generations?*

Tell them: Isaac and Rebekah live in a divided house. Pastor Michael said that, this divided household is a picture of our reality.

Ask them: *Why do you think he would say that?*

Ask them: *Have you ever lived in a divided household? How was that experience?*

Ask them: *Why do you think that God encourages households not to divide?*

Read them: *Matthew 12:25, “Now when Jesus realized what they were thinking, he said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed, and no town or house divided against itself will stand.”*

Ask them: *In what way do we see divided houses destroyed in the context of our modern world?*

Tell them: Jacob preferred Esau and Rebekah preferred Jacob. **Ask them:** *Have you struggled with having a favorite child or being the favorite or least favorite?*

God ordains that Jacob will rule Esau.

Tell them: The tragic fact that Jacob deceived his brother, manipulated him into getting the inheritance, is shocking, but knowing that God ordained it reveals that even tragedy is used by God for good. **Ask them:** *How does knowing this change your stress over today's political and social issues?*

What do we encounter about God and humanity?

Tell them: Next pastor Michael laid out four things we encounter about God and humanity:

1. When God fulfills His promises, it leads to our fullness of faith.

Ask them: *What do you think that means?*

Tell them: In Genesis 22:16, God makes Abraham a promise and swears it by an oath he swore by himself. This is talked about in Hebrews 6:17-18:

"In the same way God wanted to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise that his purpose was unchangeable, and so he intervened with an oath, so that we who have found refuge in him may find strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us through two unchangeable things, since it is impossible for God to lie."

Ask them: *What encouragement can we get from God's faithfulness, unchangableness and His inability to lie?*

2. When we despair, it can lead to us taking God's matters in our hands.

Ask them: *Have you struggled with taking matters into your own hands rather than waiting on God?*

3. When God chooses, it naturally causes division. **Ask them:** *Why would that be so? (Ex. God chose Isaac, Jacob, etc.)* **Ask them:** *What are some things in our modern world that God chooses that causes divisions? (Think about leadership, pastors chosen, presidents chosen, etc.)* **Read them:**

"He changes times and seasons, deposing some kings and establishing others. He gives wisdom to the wise; he imparts knowledge to those with understanding;" (Daniel 2:21)

Ask them: *How can this verse bring us peace during and after the election?*

4. When we are born, we naturally choose division; We naturally pick sides. **Ask them:** *Do you prefer to choose sides or remain neutral? Why?*

Application:

1. **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said, “We all tend to fill our lives with things other than God.” Things like fear, worry, doubt, taking control, resentment, children, family, politics, etc. **Ask them:** *What are you filling your life with instead of God’s promises?*
2. **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that sometimes God’s blessing includes delay. Do not take the delay of God as a lack of blessing. Look at it as a blessing. **Ask them:** *When you are experiencing delay, is your response scheming and shortcutting or is it patience?* **Ask them:** *What delay(s) are you struggling with resting in today?*
Ask them: *In the political debate, do you struggle with trusting God with the outcome?*
3. **Tell them:** Pastor Michael said that wells in the Bible are symbol of God’s promises and provision. **Ask them:** *What wells of promise have you abandoned, neglected, or lost?* **Tell them:** We need to go back to the promises of God to quench our thirst. **Ask them:** *What are the promises of God that you cling to the most?*

Tell them: If you are looking to join a house church group, please contact Hayley DiMarco at hayley@achurchforyou.com or go to www.achurchforyou.com/housechurch

Tweetable thoughts to Ponder

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