

Genesis 27 Community Group Discussion Qs

Opening Question: *What is the most memorable lie you ever told? Maybe to your parents, kids, someone you were dating, or in a job interview?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael first talked about what we encounter about humanity in this passage. What kinds of things do we learn about us all from this chapter?

1. Family dysfunction isn't new. **Tell them:** We see all kinds of dysfunction in the lives of God's people. Rebekah and Isaac had favorites, they disliked Esau's wives. Rebekah pitted her plans against her husband's. The truth is that we all live with some kind of dysfunction in our families. **Ask them:** *How many of you have a dysfunctional family? Ask them: Why do you think dysfunctional families are so typical?*
2. Helicopter parenting isn't new. **Tell them:** A helicopter parent is an overprotective parent who gets too involved in the life of their child. They most often rescue them from danger, pain or displeasure. **Ask them:** *What are the dangers of helicopter parenting? What does this type of parenting say about a person's faith in God?*
3. Playing God isn't new. **Tell them:** Orchestrating situations so that the promises of God come true is nothing new. **Ask them:** *In what way would you say that we often play God when it comes to helping Him achieve His will?*

Tell them: Many people who want what's best, who want what God wants, convince themselves that "the end justifies the means." One common philosophical question is this: if you could go back in time and assassinate Hitler when he was an infant, would that murder of

an “innocent” baby be an end that justifies the means? **Ask them:** *Do you know why this way of operating is unbiblical?*

Pastor Michael said that the idea that the end justifies the means says three things about our (false) view of God?

1. He doesn't have the means. But He does have the means. God is omnipotent. No one has more power than God. God has the power and the presence to do anything He wants to. See (Isaiah 40:21-26)
2. He won't keep His promises. He will. He does over and over.
3. He doesn't care about character. He not only cares about results, but also the process that reveals your character. God does care about our character.

Examine your heart

Tell them: Whether we've thought about it or not, there is more than likely an end, a goal, a dream, even a fear, that you are trying to reach or avoid through your own means. Think about that for a minute. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring thoughts into your mind to answer this next question:

Ask them: *What “end” in your life do you need to trust God to have the means to meet? (ie. What is an area of your life that you are shortcutting God to provide your own means of realizing His promises?)*

There are many sins that we subconsciously might consider “acceptable,” or easily overlook for the right reasons. We know they are bad, but they don't seem so bad if they get us to the end that God has in store for us or has promised us (or we've promised ourselves.) Some of these “acceptable” sins might be lying, cheating, accepting worldliness, being too busy, stressing, living with

resentment, unforgiveness, etc. Think about your goals and hopes for those you love. **Ask them:** *Have you allowed yourself permission to sin in any of these areas so that you can reach your goals?*

Tell them: Remember that a couple of weeks ago Pastor Michael taught us a new pledge of allegiance, and it was this, “Jesus is Lord” and our job is to trust Him. **Ask them:** *How many of you have spent any time making this pledge and reminding yourself of it?*

Proverbs 3:5-8 - *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. Acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own estimation; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your inner self.”*

Ask them: *How many ways have you been relying on your own understanding to do what God has promised to do? How are you shortcutting God to have the means to meet His promises?*

A lot of times we see a straight path by our own means that’s not straight into anything but trouble simply because we aren’t trusting him. **Ask them:** *What do you need to trust God with this week? In this season?*

Tell them: Pastor Michael said that humanity’s way of playing God is believing that the ends justifies the means. If you don’t see any other way than doing it yourself, know it’s because you don’t see what God sees. Tim Keller said, “God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows.” When what you think God has promised you isn’t coming fast enough, consider that He knows more than you know and trust Him with His perfectly timed delays.