

## Homework Genesis 26-36

### *“The Story of Jacob”*

#### **Genesis 25-27**

1. Before Rebekah’s sons were born, what prophecy did the Lord give about them? 25:22,23
2. What were the meanings behind the names given to Isaac and Rebekah’s twins? 25:25,26
3. What was the first scheme Jacob pulled on Esau? 25:29-34
4. Why was Esau unfit to receive the firstborn blessing? 25:34
  - Later, what other poor choice did he make? 26:34,35
5. What was the second scheme Jacob pulled on Esau? Genesis 27:1-40
6. How did all of the family members suffer as a result of this? 27:41-45

*“In Jacob’s and Rebekah’s scheming attempt to carry out the plan by human effort, they hopelessly complicated the issue until all parties were alienated from each other. Isaac and Esau are angry with Rebekah and Jacob. Rebekah never again sees her beloved son, and the relationship between Jacob and Esau is so strained that Jacob had to flee for his life.”*  
- Dr. Chris Miller

*“Everyone in the family sought the blessings of God without bending the knee to God. This little family was fraught with ambition, jealousy, envy, lying, deceit, coveting, malice, manipulation, stubbornness, and stupidity. And everyone lost.”*  
- R. Kent Hughes

#### **Genesis 28-30**

7. What concerns did Rebekah have for Jacob? 27:46
  - How did Isaac react to these concerns? 28:1,2
  - How did Esau react? 28:8,9
8. What do you find commendable about Isaac’s words to Jacob in 28:1-5?
  - How did this affect Esau? 28:6-9

9. What happened to Jacob on his trip? 28:10-15

- What promises did the Lord give to Jacob? 29:13-15 How would you describe God's heart toward Jacob?
- How did Jacob respond to his dream? 28:16-22 What conditions did He put on God's promises?

10. How did Laban deceive Jacob about his marriage? 29:22-25

11. How many “marriages” and children did Jacob have? 29:31 - 30:24 What kinds of problems did this cause? (See a law God gave later in Leviticus 18:18.)

### **Genesis 31,32**

12. How prosperous did Jacob become in the land of Haran? 30:43 (Whom did Jacob credit in 31:6,7,9?)

- What happened as a result? 31:1-3

*“God blessed Jacob both with a large family and with large herds. In both cases, people attempted to manipulate the outcome; nevertheless, the prosperous results were from the hand of God rather than man...In spite of Jacob’s lack of faith, God faithfully blessed him in his sojourning. God is clearly the hero of this story.”*  
- Dr. Chris Miller

13. How did the Lord comfort Jacob on his trip? 32:1,2

14. What measures did Jacob take to protect his family when meeting Esau? 32:3-21 On what grounds did Jacob make his appeal to God for protection? 32:9,12

### **Genesis 32,35**

15. What unusual event occurred with Jacob in 32:24-32

- What did Jacob seek? 32:26

16. How was Jacob’s life changed? 35:1-15 (See also 37:1)

*VIDEO NOTES*

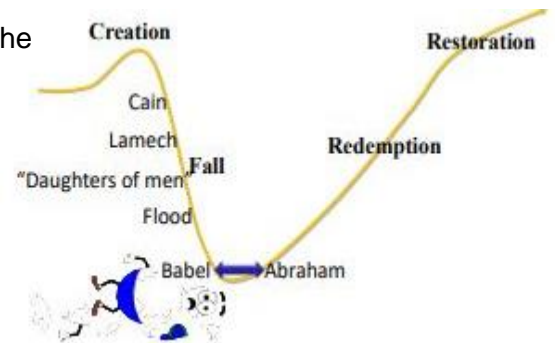
*NOTES*

## Small Group Time: Jacob - Genesis 26 - 36

1. What did you find most interesting or meaningful to you in this video?

2. How does the diagram illustrate that the call of Abraham was the answer to Babel and the fragmenting of nations?

3. From James 2:21-23, how was Genesis 22 in a “fulfillment” or filling up of Genesis 15?



- What does it mean to be called God’s friend (2:23b)? \*

*“[Abraham] attained the primary thing—the only thing worth having in life—the **friendship of God**. Everything else is secondary. In our culture of achievement and proving our self-worth this doesn’t seem very valuable but that just exposes our own idols.”*  
- Dr. Chris Miller

### Jacob

4. What were the meanings of Esau and Jacob’s names? How is the story of Jacob a play on his name? Gen. 25:24,25

5. How was Jacob’s second deception (Genesis 27) more devious than the first (Gen 25:29-34)? *How many ways did Jacob deceive his father?*

- What did the loss of this blessing mean? How did Esau feel? 27:41

6. What assurance did the Lord give Jacob in a dream? 28:10-15

- What did the ladder represent? John 1:51 (*How was Nathaniel not like Jacob? 1:47*)

7. What did Jacob recognize about the dream? 28:16,17

- How did Jacob’s statement in 28:20-22 show a lack of faith?

*“It appears to me that God is offering Jacob the opportunity of a relationship with himself. This understanding is rarely acknowledged or considered simply because most people assume that the patriarchs were all born in a relationship with God. But just because God superintends the birth of a person and has plans for him certainly doesn’t mean that he or she doesn’t need to come to know God personally. Every person (patriarch or not) must exercise faith in God’s promise of redemption (Messiah) to be justified (Rom 3—4)...The plotline of the story now follows what God will have to do to Jacob for him to see how much he needs God!”*

- Dr. Chris Miller

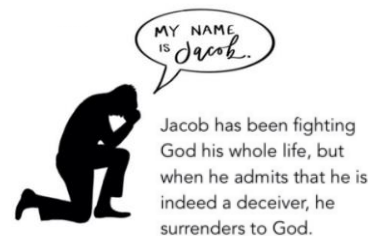
## 8. How did the Lord use Laban to discipline Jacob? Gen 29:15-30

*“God’s strategy is so pointed and perfect—he’s bringing into Jacob’s life someone who can do to him what he has always done to others. God is giving him a taste of his own medicine, not to punish him, but to begin to open his eyes to the truth of his own limitations. Jacob simply cannot negotiate life on his own. As clever as he is, there is always someone even more clever. His only hope is to name and turn from his self-reliance and turn to God’s ways, but Jacob doesn’t yet get that.”*  
*- Dr. Chris Miller*

## 9. What superstitious, manipulative, and idolatrous practices did Jacob and his wives practice in Genesis 30? (See also 31:19,20,35) How would you describe this family?

## 10. How would you answer the following questions Dr. Miller addressed concerning Jacob’s wrestling match? 32:22-31

- “Who was the man?” (See 32:30)
- “Why touch his hip?” \*
- “Why ask his name after the fighting?”
- “How did Jacob overcome?”



## 11. What promises did God repeat? Genesis 35:9-14

- What comforts you the most to know that “God is a God of Jacobs”?

\* “Jacob, the deceitful fighter, was crippled by a supernatural blow. He had struggled all his life with God to obtain His blessings and now God crippled his human strength. The touch of God dislocated his thigh, the strongest part of the wrestler. Jacob had to learn that his carnal weapons were useless; he could not enter the promised land on his own strength. He had to admit and reveal his character (heel-catcher, or deceiver) before he could obtain his blessing....Jacob didn’t overcome by being stubborn; he overcame when he quit fighting, confessed his sin and asked in faith.

More than with any other patriarch, the story of Jacob is the story of the nation. It is by divine design that she shares his name. In his self-will, deception with men, and struggle with God, Jacob’s experiences reflect those of the nation. By God’s grace, however, his character is changed and Israel, the one who struggles with God, is conquered by God, in whom he finally learns to trust.” - Dr. Chris Miller “OT Lit. Written Notes”