

Study Series: Genesis

Questions about Genesis 24:1—36:43

1. According to the Abraham's servant, why was the servant successful in finding a wife for Isaac? (Gen 24, especially 24:42-48) What can we learn about faith from the story?

2. From the time they were in their mother's womb, Isaac's sons, Esau and Jacob, were rivals. What were the main reasons for this rivalry? (25:19-34) What role did Rebekah play in their rivalry? (27:1-41) Name instances where this rivalry was played out.

3. Why couldn't Isaac take back the blessing of the first-born that he mistakenly gave to Jacob? (27:30-33) In your opinion, do spoken promises have such power today? Why or why not?

4. What promise did Jacob receive at Bethel while he was dreaming? (28:10-15; see also 35:9-15) What did Jacob promise God in return? (28:20-22)

5. Who was Laban and how did he trick Jacob? (29:1-30) How did Jacob trick Laban in return? (30:25-43)

6. Jacob's name was changed to what? Where did this happen? (32:22-30; 35:9-11) Why is this important for the history of God's people, the descendants of Abraham?

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "God's purposes are carried out by people who sometimes act in sneaky and dishonorable ways." Explain, using examples from Genesis.

8. These chapters show us much about personal, family, social, business, and religious life at the time of Abraham and Isaac. What strikes you as most different from our own life and culture? Do you think people lived "closer" to God then? Explain.