

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, Jan. 3rd 2016

The Gospel in Relationships | Gen 33:1-20 – Jacob and Esau

Travis opened his message by saying “the right relationship with God leads to the right relationship with people” and highlighted Jesus’ saying in Lk 7:47 “her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” Using the Jacob and Esau story he outlined our collective need to:

- Turn toward repentance (Gen. 31:13, 17-18)
 - Wrestle with God THEN repent before your brother or sister (Gen 32:22-33:1)
 - Seek forgiveness *not* favor (Gen 32:5; 33:8, 10, 15)
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1. What does John highlight as the basis for all forgiveness and love in the Gospel in 1 Jn 4:9-12? How does/should this impact your outlook on relationships with others?
 2. Jacob acts curiously, not just to the reader, but even to Esau in this passage. What do his actions (displayed through his whole family) communicate along with his words? How does this message contrast with Esau’s powerful words (given the context of the larger story) in verse 9?
 3. Travis highlighted Jacob’s lessons in asking forgiveness in his message but what does Esau teach about forgiveness in his actions towards Jacob?
 4. How does Jacob’s wrestling with God earlier prepare his heart for his encounter with Esau?
 5. Travis said “God often uses our life circumstances to push us towards repentance.” Where may God be squeezing you toward repentance in your life?
 6. Whom do you need to seek reconciliation with (large or small)? How will you begin?
 7. Travis pointed out our human temptation to seek favor from those we’ve offended over true forgiveness, how does this play out in the Jacob/Esau story?
 8. How does seeking favor compare with seeking forgiveness in your own life? Can you think of some examples?
 9. How can you focus on forgiveness in your family and show it to those under your own roof?