Life Lessons from Jacob
Six Week Bible Study in Genesis 27 - 33
# GENESIS: SUMMARIZED

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Genesis, meaning “origins” or “beginnings,” receives its title from the first verse, “In the beginning.” As both the first book of the Bible and the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament), Genesis establishes the historical and theological foundation on which many Christian doctrines rest.

In the second section of Genesis, chapters 12-50, the major themes include God’s covenant with Abraham, the formation of the nation of Israel and its land, God’s promise, and God’s blessing. Prayerfully this study will specifically focus on these themes as reflected in the life of Jacob, recorded in Genesis 27-33.

Let’s invite someone to come out and be in fellowship with us here at 3Ps on Thursday evenings, as we study God’s Word together. May God bless you, abundantly.

In His Will,
Pastor Kermit Perry

Character Bio:
Jacob: (meaning Supplanter or Heel Catcher)

Parents: Isaac & Rebekah

Siblings: 1 Brother - Esau (Twin)

Age at Death: 147 yrs old

Children: 12 Sons
LESSON 1: THE DECEIVER

Lesson Text: Genesis 27:18-29
Background Scriptures Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-17

God accomplishes His purposes despite His covenant people's sin.

What may cause a person to intentionally deceive others?

How do you typically respond after you discover that you were deceived?

Genesis 27:18-20
18 So he went to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”
19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me.”
20 But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” And he said, “Because the LORD your God brought it to me.”

Discussion Question #1
What are some situations in which you might be tempted to deceive another person? How can you maintain your integrity in these situations?

Genesis 27:21-24
21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not.”
22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”
23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.
24 Then he said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He said, “I am.”

Discussion Question #2
When dealing with people who don’t always act with integrity and transparency, what can you gain by setting an example?
Genesis 27:25-29
25 He said, “Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son’s game, so that my soul may bless you.” So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.
26 Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near now and kiss me, my son.”
27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: “Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.
28 Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven,
Of the fatness of the earth,
And plenty of grain and wine.
29 Let peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you.
Be master over your brethren,
And let your mother’s sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone who curses you,
And blessed be those who bless you!”

Discussion Questions # 3&4
What are some consequences that result from favoritism?
How can you avoid showing favoritism in your family?

Did receiving the blessing justify the means of Jacob’s deception? Explain.

A few of the consequences of Jacob getting ahead of God
He never saw his mother again.
Jacob’s Brother was so angry that he determined to kill him.
Jacob had to flee for his life.

“To lie a little is not possible; whoever lies, lies a whole lie.”
Victor Hugo

“And the Lord told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals. One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.””
Lesson 2: Not Alone

Lesson Text: Genesis 28:10-22
Background Scriptures Genesis 28:1-9

*God reveals His purpose to the people He chooses.*

Genesis 28:10-11
10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.  
11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

**Discussion Question #1-2**  
*Have you ever known anyone who experienced separation because of their sins?*

*How did the knowledge of that separation help you understand the seriousness of sin?*

Genesis 28:12-15
12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.  
13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.  
14 “Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.  
15 “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

**Discussion Questions #3-4**  
*How can we be more aware of God’s invisible activity around you?*

*How does God’s promised presence give you hope and strength?*

Genesis 28:16-19
16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”
17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”
18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.
19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

**Discussion Question #5**

*What are some appropriate ways you can celebrate God’s work in your life?*

**Genesis 28:20-22**

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,
21 “so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.
22 “And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

**Discussion Question #6**

*How do your actions demonstrate who you are and what you believe?*

**Apply The Text**

1. Believers can be confident that God is with them, guiding them to fulfill His purposes for them.
2. Believers can joyfully and gratefully commemorate God’s work in their lives.
3. Believers are to take steps of faith in response when God speaks to them.

_The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet._

_Frederick Buechner_

**Memory Verse**

*Genesis 28:15*

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”
God uses imperfect people with imperfect lives to advance His plans.

Genesis 29:16-20
16 Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.
17 Leah’s eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.
18 Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter.”
19 And Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me.”
20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

Discussion Question #1
How can you find purpose in your work, regardless of its nature?

Genesis 29:21-24 (Deception Causes Pain)
21 Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her.”
22 And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.
23 Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.
24 And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

Discussion Questions #2-3
What keeps you from speaking up when you become aware of a deceptive act?
Do any of these reasons excuse you from responsibility? Explain

Genesis 29:25-26
25 So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?”
26 And Laban said, “It must not be done so in our country, to give the
LESSON 3: FAMILY

younger before the firstborn.

Discussion Question #4
Why is maintaining a godly perspective in challenging times important for you?

Genesis 29:27-30
27 “Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years.”
28 Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.
29 And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.
30 Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

Discussion Question #5
How have God’s plans for you been different from what you had planned for your life?

Obey The Text
• Note specific ways you’ll put into practice the truths learned in this lesson.

“I sometimes wonder whether the church needs new members one-half as much as she needs the old bunch made over”
Billy Sunday

Memory Verse
Genesis 1:26-28

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.””
LESSON 4: HOMESICK

Lesson Text: Genesis 31:1-16
Background Scriptures Genesis 30:25-43

*God is always with His people, giving direction for living.*

**Genesis 31:1-3**
1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban’s sons, saying, “Jacob has taken away all that was our father’s, and from what was our father’s he has acquired all this wealth.”
2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.
3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.”

**Discussion Question #1**

*How has God demonstrated His faithfulness in your life?*

**Genesis 31:4-9**
4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,
5 and said to them, “I see your father’s countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.
6 “And you know that with all my might I have served your father.
7 “Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.
8 “If he said thus: ‘The speckled shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: ‘The streaked shall be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked.
9 “So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

**Discussion Questions #2**

*When have you seen God’s guidance in making a difficult decision? How was this experience different from other decisions you’ve made?*

**Genesis 31:10-13**
10 “And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.
11 “Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, ‘Jacob.’ And I said,
‘Here I am.’
12 ‘And He said, ‘Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.
13 ‘I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ “

**Discussion Question #3**

*How do the ways Jacob honored God in these verses compare to ways a person could honor God today?*

**Genesis 31:14-16**

14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house?
15 “Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.
16 “For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children’s; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.”

**Discussion Question #4-5**

*Do you find Rachel and Leah’s conclusions surprising?*

*How does God’s faithfulness influence the decisions you make?*

**Conclusion**

• God is faithful and just, He has a Divine plan for our lives. It is essential for us to shake off the negative things from the past and fix our eyes on Jesus.

“The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.”
Augustine of Hippo

**Memory Verse**

*Genesis 31:3*

> “Then the LORD said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.””
Lesson Text: Genesis 32:22-32
Background Scriptures Genesis 32:1-21

God transforms people for use in His Divine plan.

Transformed: to change in character or condition.
(Romans 12:1-2)

Genesis 32:22-25
22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.
23 He took them, sent them [a]over the brook, and sent over what he had.
24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.
25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

Discussion Question #1
How does this passage characterize Jacob's life?
What similarities do you see in your life?

Genesis 32:26-27
26 And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”
27 So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.”

Discussion Questions #2-3
Have you ever experienced a life change as a result of your faith in Christ?
What are the dangers of not confessing your past? How does honesty and humility open the door to Spiritual transformation?

Genesis 32:28-32
28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”
29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.
LESSON 5: TRANSFORMED

30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”
31 Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.
32 Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrunk, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrunk.

Discussion Question #4-5
What does it look like for you to live a life surrendered to God?
How can believers mature through difficult experiences?

Conclusion
• True transformation leads believers to value and seek God’s blessing above all else.
• When believers submit to God, transformation takes place.
• Believers can establish life markers that remind them of critical spiritual insights gained in their walk with the Lord.

“If we cannot be Transformed, we will settle for being informed and conformed”
John Ortberg

Memory Verse
Genesis 32:28
“And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.””
Lesson Text: Genesis 33:1-15

Reconciled relationships are a blessing from God, and the greatest blessing is a restored relationship with him.

Genesis 33:1-2
1 Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.
2 And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.

Discussion Question #1
In what areas of your life do you experience fear most? How can faith help you overcome those fears?

Genesis 33:3-4
3 Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.
4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

Discussion Questions #2
What steps of preparation should you take before seeking reconciliation, knowing that pride hurts and humility helps in building good relationships?

Genesis 33:5-11
5 And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, “Who are these with you?” So he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”
6 Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.
7 And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.
8 Then Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company which I met?” And he said, “These are to find favor in the sight of my lord.”
9 But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.”
10 And Jacob said, “No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.
11 “Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” So he urged him, and he took it.

Discussion Question #3-4
How do your actions reveal the true values of the person who influences you most?

What are some ways to demonstrate a genuine desire to reconcile a broken relationship?

Genesis 33:12-15
12 Then Esau said, “Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you.”
13 But Jacob said to him, “My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die.
14 “Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir.”
15 And Esau said, “Now let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.”

Discussion Question #5
What obstacles get in the way of reconciling a broken relationship?

Conclusion
Talking about reconciliation is easier than doing it. Whether from pride, fear of conflict, or fear of rejection, some people choose to allow a once healthy relationship to wither and die rather than face confrontation. They focus on what reconciliation might cost, ignoring what can be gained: a restored relationship, healing, forgiveness, and renewed love.
“Never ruin an apology with an excuse.”
Kimberly Johnson

Memory Verse
Genesis 33:11

“Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” So he urged him, and he took it.”

Notes