



Carrying the offenses myself

# TO FORGIVE

Jacob - Esau



Giving the offenses to God

1. Check out Genesis 25:24. What kind of babies were Esau & Jacob? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Before the pregnancy & birth, what did their father (Isaac) pray? (Gen. 25:21)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3.  Yes  No Did Esau and Jacob look alike at birth? (Gen. 25:27)
4. What did they look like? Esau: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob: \_\_\_\_\_

**Based on the description of the boys, and based on scientific study, we know that these boys were not IDENTICAL, but rather FRATERNAL.**

**FRATERNAL = Two separate eggs fertilized by two separate sperm, thus, two separate people. They just happened to have both been born at the same birth event.**

5. In Genesis 25:27, the text says "so the boys grew". This means "have grown up". What did each boy grow up to be?  
Esau: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Just like any other fraternal twins, they developed into their own personalities and followed their own "likes", HOWEVER, as little boys, they grew up side-by-side.  
 Yes  No Isn't it safe assume that they had a bond with each other which could have shown itself either as "love" or as "hostility"?
7. Here's the glitch: Isaac loved \_\_\_\_\_; Rebekah loved \_\_\_\_\_.
8. How would this dysfunction affect the family and the boys in your opinion?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WE WERE JUST KIDS. WE DID NOT KNOW ALL THE EMOTIONAL STUFF IN THE FAMILY AND WHAT IT MEANT.**

9. Esau probably spent more time with Dad (Isaac)?  Yes  No
10. Jacob probably spent more time with Mom (Rebekah)?  Yes  No
11. I wonder how Rebekah treated Esau?  Tender & loving?  A thorn in her side?

12. What did Rebekah know that possibly no one else knew? (Gen. 25:23)

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13.  Yes  No She probably told Jacob many times there "in the tent".

**A Little Summary**

- We cannot read Esau's heart, but he appeared to not be focused on God's plan.
- Therefore, even though he was the first born, God could not use him to lead the family
- Obviously, God could have accomplished His plan without Jacob & Rebekah cheating.
- **So far, Esau has been hurt & offended by his brother and his mother.**

Genesis 27:35 Isaac said to Esau, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

Genesis 27:38 Esau said, "Father, do you only have one blessing? Is there a blessing for me." Esau lifted up his voice & wept.

Genesis 27:41 So Esau hated Jacob. He thought to himself, "As soon as my father dies, I will kill my brother, Jacob."

14.  Yes  No Have you found yourself in a similar situation or something like it?

15. Whether a person is a follower of God or not, they still get offended and hurt by someone else at times.  True  False

16. Our three characters should take a bow. Esau hates Jacob; Jacob is afraid of Esau; Rebekah directs the entire lie. No problem - we must honor our mother.

17. In this whole family drama, who offended who? Who should forgive who?

Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**HERE'S A TOUGH ONE. CAN AN UNBELIEVER REALLY FORGIVE SOMEONE OF AN OFFENSE, OR DOES HE HANDLE IT BY TOTALLY DISCONNECTING HIMSELF FROM THE OTHER PERSON?**

18. What do you think about the statement above? \_\_\_\_\_

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19.  Yes  No After 21 years, can two feuding people reconcile?

20. If you have an unresolved feud with someone, how long has it been? \_\_\_\_\_

21. After having a rather dishonest & hostile time with his Uncle Laban (Gen. 32:4), Jacob sends a letter to brother Esau asking what? (Gen. 32:5) \_\_\_\_\_

***After 21 years, Jacob wants to see Esau and Esau wants to see Jacob (Gen. 32:6).***

22.  Yes  No Was Esau glad to see Jacob? (Gen. 33:4)

(It almost looked like one twin wanting to bond with the other twin - just a thought.)

23.  Yes  No Was Jacob glad to see Esau? (Gen. 33:3-15)

***It is possible that Jacob was terrified of Esau during their meeting (repeatedly saying, "If I have found your favor," Unless I am missing something with the culture here, possibly no confessing fault or forgiving the other happened that day.***

24.  Yes  No Would you be willing to tell God "I forgive my offender - yes, my mom, my dad, my brother, the woman in my life, myself"?