



# Happy Father's Day

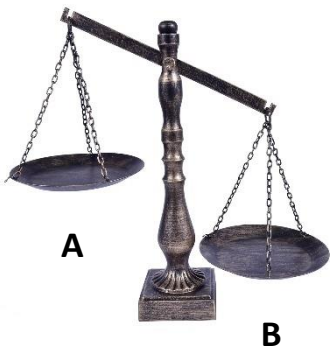
*Don't be afraid to make this journey; remember when God cared for you in Egypt & in the wilderness all the way to this place - JUST LIKE a father carries his son. (Deut. 1:29-31)*

## JACOB

LET'S START OUT THIS NEXT LESSON ON FATHERS BY SAYING:

- Not every mistake we make should be blamed on our fathers.
- The life we live today still hinges on the personal decisions we make.
- We obviously can't help being affected by the decisions of our ancestors.
  - a. A family member may have been selfish but would never have stolen.
  - b. A family member may have ignored God but not blasphemed God.
  - c. A family member may have mistreated his wife but not divorced her.
  - d. A family member may have disobeyed God but not rejected the Law of God.

1. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      Do you think that Abraham (Jacob's grandpa) ever told Isaac (Jacob's dad) to go out and lie if he could get away with it?
  2. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      Do you think that Isaac (Jacob's dad) ever told Jacob to go out and lie if he could get away with it?
  3. What did Abraham do in Gen. 12:10-13? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. What did Isaac do in Gen. 26:6-7? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. What did Jacob do in Gen. 27:19 \_\_\_\_\_
  6. In your opinion, what is the difference between "told" and "do"?
- 



7. This scale shows the heavier weight as "B". The lighter weight as "A". Which of these might have been heavier (more important) to you when you were a child?
  - \_\_\_ The Sunday school teacher told you not to steal.
  - \_\_\_ Your dad stole things & had no problem with that.
8. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      A child may want to please & imitate his Father even though the dad might be mean and absent some of the time.

### Let's Review

- Where did Jacob learn to scheme with his mother to trick & lie to his father, Isaac? (Gen. 27)
- Where did Jacob learn to cheat & deceive his own brother (Esau) out of his inheritance? (Gen. 27)
- Where did Jacob learn to try to buy his brother's (Esau) love when they met on the road? (Gen. 27)
- Where did Jacob learn to cause Esau to hate him so as not see each other for 21 years? (Gen. 27)
- Where did Jacob get all the fear he had when meeting brother Esau? (Gen.33)
- Is it possible that what we see being done is stronger than being told not to do it?

## ESAU AND JACOB GREW TOGETHER BUT THEY WEREN'T THE SAME

### ESAU

Gen. 25:27 - Skillful \_\_\_\_\_  
 Man of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 25:28 - Favored by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 25:29 - \_\_\_\_\_ stew  
 Gen. 25:31 - Wanted \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 27:41 - He left home hating his brother  
 Gen. 28:9 - He had multiple wives

### JACOB

Gen. 25:27 - \_\_\_\_\_ Man  
 Gen. 25:28 - Dwelling in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Favored by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 25:29 - Came in from \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 25:34 - Did not want \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. 27:45 - He left home fearing his brother  
 Gen. 30:24 - He had multiple wives

9. What kind of damage is done in a family when one parent favors one over another?

As you probably know quite well, in blended families, one parent might favor one kid & ignore another.

### WHAT ABOUT TRUST?

10. What is your definition of "trust"? \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Are there people in your immediate family you do not trust?

12. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Are there people in your family who do not trust you?

"Trust" means "I am convinced of the reliability of someone and confident that I can lean on this person".

13. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Have you ever lost the trust of a loved one?

14. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Are you now or have you ever had to win back someone's trust?

### Just a Reminder from the verses above

- Jacob's mother, Rebekah, did not trust God to accomplish His plan.
- Rebekah did not trust her husband, Isaac.
- Isaac did not trust the people around him, especially after his eyes went bad.
- Isaac didn't even trust his own favored son, Esau
- Rebekah's brother, Uncle Laban, did not trust Jacob when they lived together.
- Jacob did not trust Uncle Laban, and tried running off during his stay there.
- Jacob did not trust his brother, Esau.
  - a. Jacob & his clan settled a long way from Esau's home.
  - b. Jacob & Esau did not see each other for 21 years.



\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

It looks like Jacob & Esau met near the Jabbok River. (See map)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

It looks like Esau was planning on traveling with Jacob. (Gen. 33:12)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Jacob did not want to travel with Esau but he said he would. (33:14)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Esau wanted to leave some of his people to help; Jacob did not want any of Esau's people staying behind? (Gen. 33:15-16)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Esau continued on his way home to Edom (Seir). (Gen. 33:16)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Jacob went the opposite direction to Succoth (Gen. 33:17)

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Jacob crossed the Jordan River & settled in Shechem. (Gen. 33:18)

**IT LOOKS LIKE JACOB STILL DOES NOT TRUST ESAU, AND THAT HE PLANS TO STAY FAR AWAY FROM ESAU.**

**THE NAME "JACOB" MEANS "TO CONTROL BY MEANS OF DECEPTION, FRAUD, AND THE VIOLATING OF THE RULES.**

*Genesis 33:27-28 - God said to Jacob, "What is your name?" He replied, "Jacob". God said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."*

15. It appears that Jacob had always needed to be in control:

- Yes  No      Stole his brother's inheritance? (Gen. 27:30)
- Yes  No      Tried to out-cheat his Uncle Laban? (Gen. 29:15)
- Yes  No      Had sex with substitutes just to build his family? (Gen. 30:3)
- Yes  No      Softened Esau by parading his family out front? (Gen. 33:1-2)
- Yes  No      Tried to buy Esau's forgiveness with his assets? (Gen. 33:8)
- Yes  No      Moved to an unsafe place to hide from Esau? (Gen. 34)

16. I have been a control freak most of my life. It started in my childhood trying to survive; I tried to carry that attitude into marriage. That didn't work. Jacob tried that again before meeting his brother. (Gen. 32:22-32)

- It was time       It was not time for Jacob to give God control of his life.
- Jacob let go easy.       Jacob did not let go easy.
- Does it look like Jacob was serious about turning over control to God?
- Does it look like God was serious about Jacob surrendering his life to God.

17.  Yes  No      After this wrestling match with God where Jacob gave the control of his life to God, did Jacob make any more mistakes?

*We have covered the answer to this question in the many points made earlier in the lesson.*

**LET'S LOOK CLOSER AT JACOB'S FAMILY**

*Gen. 35:22-26 - Leah's sons were Reuben (Jacob's first-born), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Rachel's sons were Joseph and Benjamin. Rachel's servant Bilhah's sons were Dan and Naphtali. Leah's servant Zilpah's sons were Gad and Asher.*

18. Jacob was the father of all 12 sons. Who were the mothers of each group? Fill in the names of the mothers at the top of each column.

MOTHER				
SONS	Reuben	Joseph	Dan	Gad
	Simeon	Benjamin	Naphtali	Asher
	Levi			
	Judah			
	Issachar			
	Zebulun			

19.  Yes  No      Families can love each other regardless of the dynamics.

20. What kind of problems do you foresee in Jacob's home? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21.  Yes  No Do you belong to a family that has issues similar to Jacob's?

### THE MARRIAGES OF JACOB TO LEAH & RACHEL

- *Jacob did not want Leah as a wife; he wanted her sister, Rachel.*
- *Jacob got deceived by Uncle Laban at the marriage festival; Rachel was replaced with Leah.*
- *Jacob had to work for Uncle Laban 7 more years to get Rachel (the one he really loved).*

22. Leah knew she really was not loved. Look at how she described the births.

(Gen. 29:31-35) Match the name with the description.

- a. Reuben \_\_\_\_\_ Because the Lord has heard that I am unloved  
b. Simeon \_\_\_\_\_ Now, I will praise the Lord  
c. Levi \_\_\_\_\_ Though afflicted, now my husband will love me  
d. Judah \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe now my husband will become close to me

23. How did his other wife, Rachel, respond to all this? (Gen. 30:1)

Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel \_\_\_\_\_ her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me \_\_\_\_\_, or else I \_\_\_\_\_."

24. How did Jacob respond to all this? (Gen. 30:2) \_\_\_\_\_

### **IT APPEARS THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF ANGER, BITTERNESS, AND SELFISHNESS IN THESE MARRIAGES.**

- *Yes, the Jewish culture allowed the marriage of men to concubines (extra wives for child-bearing).*
- *A marriage of a man & woman cannot begin with dishonesty & competition.*
- *A woman should not have to have children to gain her husband's love.*

25. If you lived in a home like this, how would it affect your growing up & your values?

\_\_\_\_\_

### HOW DID JACOB'S BOYS TURN OUT? (Gen. 49:1-27) (From their father's own mouth)

Reuben	Unstable, will not excel	3-4	Dan	Promoter of idol worship	16-18
Simeon	Cruelty & fierce anger (Obscurity)	5-7	Gad	Fighters who will win	19
Levi	Cruelty, fierce anger (Prominence)	5-7	Asher	Favored by others	20
Judah	Destined to respect/leadership	8-12	Naphtali	Source of beautiful words	21
Zebulun	A faithful haven to others	13	Joseph	A fruitful vine from God's hand	22-26
Issachar	Strong but weak & lazy	14-15	Benjamin	A reputation of fierceness	27

26. Do you think Jacob wondered how his boys turned out the way they did. Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

27. I wonder if Jacob would do anything different if he could? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

28.  Yes  No We cannot blame all our flaws & failures on our fathers. Agree?

29.  Yes  No We made decisions through the years that we must own. Agree?

30. How did your father affect you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

31. How did you affect your kids? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_