

Genesis Bible Study Assignment

May 20, 2021

Reading: Genesis Chapters 31-33

Discussion Questions

Genesis 31

1. Jacob told his wives that God was responsible for Laban's flocks bearing speckled and striped offspring. Why do you think Jacob gave this interpretation rather than telling them how he manipulated the breeding and offspring of the flock?
2. What reason might Rachel have given to justify her "stealing her father's household gods"?
3. Genesis 31:20 states that Jacob deceived Laban by failing to inform him that he and his family were leaving. Why do you think Jacob didn't give Laban advance notice?
4. Laban and Jacob made a covenant. What did Laban require of Jacob? Why do you think Laban required this? What did Jacob require of Laban? Why do you think Jacob required this?

Genesis 32

5. Compare Jacob's attitude toward God at the beginning of his journey (Genesis 28:20-22) to his attitude toward God as he was returning to his family (Genesis 32:9-12).
6. Jacob wrestled with a man who renamed him "Israel" – which means "the one who strives with God". How might a person strive/struggle/wrestle with God today?

Genesis 33

7. Why do you think Esau traveled with 400 men as he went to meet Jacob?

8. In what order did Jacob put his livestock and family with respect to who Esau would encounter first? Why do you think he arranged things this way?

9. Jacob had been away from his brother for 20 years. How did Esau react when he saw Jacob for the first time after Jacob's absence? What does Esau's reaction to Jacob teach you about forgiveness and reconciliation?

10. Why do you think Jacob stopped following Esau and settled first in Succoth and later in Shechem?