

Bible Study Questions

Genesis: The Story Begins – The Cheater, The Despiser, and the Grace of God

Focus

God's promised salvation for His people doesn't depend on His people, but on God and His sovereign grace.

Read

[Genesis 25:12-34](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on Genesis which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in Genesis; the Pentateuch; the Old Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the main characters in this section?
 - Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. In what ways has Genesis up to this point revealed that God is sovereign and that His promise of salvation and blessing is dependent on His power, choice, and grace?

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2. How is that theme magnified here in the story of Jacob and Esau?
3. In what ways do we see here that neither Esau nor Jacob are deserving of the promise of God's blessing and salvation? Can you identify with either of their sinful behaviors? How is Jesus different?
4. Read Malachi 1:1-5. What is the Lord's purpose in drawing attention to God's choosing of Jacob and not Esau? How should God's people find encouragement from that today?
5. Read Romans 9:6-13. What is Paul's purpose in drawing attention to God's choosing of Jacob and not Esau? How should God's people find encouragement from that today?
6. In what ways are you maybe sometimes falling into the trap of thinking that God's grace and love to you depends on you in some way? How do you fight back against that in your own heart?
7. Why should the doctrine of God's sovereign grace in election make Christians both confident and humble? Is that true of you?
8. How does the doctrine of election maximize and magnify the glory of God?
9. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Take some time together as a group to praise God for His glorious grace.

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?

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2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?