

Bible Study Questions

Genesis: The Story Begins – Jacob, Jujitsu, and Jesus

Focus

Jesus, the true Israel, was humbled and broken by God so that we might receive the blessing of God as we cling to Him by faith.

Read

[Genesis 32-33](#)

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.)

3. Do your best to try and see Jacob as a true human being (because he is!) who's been changed by God and yet is still journeying through a dangerous

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world. Can you understand his feelings of fear, of being 'greatly afraid and distressed?' What does that feel like?

4. How do you typically respond when you feel afraid?
5. What do you make of Jacob's prayer? What are some aspects of his prayer that we can learn from and model?
6. What passage of Scripture has been particularly helpful for you in your struggle with fear? What promises do you lean on? Etc.
7. In what ways is Jacob's wrestling match with God a parable of his whole life?
8. What's the difference between understanding Jacob's wrestling match with God as God bringing Jacob to the end of himself vs it being an example of something we need to emulate?
9. Jacob is learning where true strength, victory and blessing is to be found – namely, in weakness, defeat, and brokenness. What is meant by that in this context? Can you explain it in your own words?
10. In what ways have you experienced what Jacob and the Apostle Paul experienced, "For when I am weak then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10)?
11. Has God ever mercifully confronted you in your sin and in your life and brought you to the end of yourself? What was that like? What did He accomplish in your life through that?
12. It has been said that "the true saint walks with a limp"? What do you think that means? Do you agree or disagree with it? Why?
13. How does this passage help you to rest in Jesus and cling to Him in faith?

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

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