

Bible Study Questions

Genesis: The Story Begins – A Tale of Two Genealogies

Focus

Esau and his descendants became successful in the world's eyes, but it mattered not for they opposed God's covenant of grace and thus found themselves outside of it, raising the question for us: do we belong to the genealogical (spiritual) line of Esau or Jacob?

Read

[Genesis 36:1-37:1](#)

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.)

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1. How does our culture define what it is to have a 'successful' life?
2. What in this genealogy of Esau tells you that he and his descendants have achieved power and success?
3. What in this genealogy of Esau tells you that he has moved outside God's covenant of grace?
4. Though brief, how does 37:1 make important contrasts between Jacob and Esau?
5. Do an honest assessment of your life (for example, think of how you spend your Time, Talent, and Treasure). What does it reveal? Are you more in the line of Esau or Jacob? (In other words, is your life shaped more by a desire for secular/worldly success or spiritual 'success'?)
6. Sunday's sermon asked, "if you could have all of the peace and prosperity there is in the world, but not have the Lord, would you take it?" How would you answer?
7. Read Colossians 3:1-4. What would it look like for you to apply this in your life?
8. Read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-17. What does it teach you about Jesus? What does it teach you about His family?
9. How does Esau's genealogy provide a warning for us? How does Jesus' genealogy provide an encouragement to us?

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?