

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Family ...why bother?

OPENING UP



Have you ever been in a situation where you entered a group and immediately felt tension in the room? What was that like? Did it ever get settled?

TEXT



When Dysfunction Meets Grace | Genesis 33:11–11 (ESV)

¹ And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. ² And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. ³ He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵ And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, “Who are these with you?” Jacob said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.” ⁶ Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. ⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. ⁸ Esau said, “What do you mean by all this company that I met?” Jacob answered, “To find favor in the sight of my lord.” ⁹ But Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself.” ¹⁰ Jacob said, “No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. ¹¹ Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough.” Thus he urged him, and he took it.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: God’s Grace Prevails Over Family Dysfunction

1. Disobedience leads to family dysfunction (Gen 26:34-27:36)
2. God’s grace shines through family dysfunction (Gen 28:1-8)
3. God’s grace can reconcile family dysfunction (Gen 33:1-11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- Growing up, how did your family handle uncomfortable topics or situations? What core messages did you receive about any family dysfunction you might have experienced?
- Where have you experienced distress in your family? How might those realities be connected to disobedience to God's Word?
- Take a moment and read back through the story in Genesis 27 – 28:11. Where do you see moments of God's grace or character showing up in the story?
- Take a moment and share a testimony of how you have seen God's Grace work through a distressful moment in your life or your family?
- What are ways that God might be asking us to take a step toward someone we have a challenging relationship with, either inside or outside our family?

LIFE CHALLENGE



As people who have received God's reconciliation, our high and beautiful call (and privilege) is to bring reconciliation into all of our relationships. As ministers of the gospel, we get a chance to live out the gospel's unbelievable power as we seek to live peaceably with all around us. Are there are people you need to reach out to for repentance and restoration? Ask for God's peace and presence—and then pursue what God has given us in the reconciling gospel of peace.

CLOSING PRAYER



Oh Lord, thank you that a story of two brothers ended well, even after so many lies, so much treachery, and so many years of animosity. Help us, your people, to live out this story in the way we approach our relationships. Where there is strife, help us to pursue peace in all things. We seek to give you glory; help us to glorify you by always walking in peace, being peacemakers, and pursuing peace wherever it's broken. Amen.