

JACOB & ESAU

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Series
February 24, 2021

Conflict and Resolution



Midweek Lenten Online Service

North Cape Lutheran Church

[Link to Online Service](#)

Discussion Prompts for Genesis 32:22-33:17

Context

- What qualities of character does Esau demonstrate? What are his weaknesses?
- What qualities of character does Jacob demonstrate? What are his weaknesses?
- Based on this assessment, who would you choose to be the nation's leader if you had a vote? Why or why not?
- Who seems to rise to power in our society? What are the rules or customs

(written or unwritten) for how someone becomes a powerful leader in business or politics?

- What are some of the issues and differences that cause rivalry, conflict, and jealousy between Jacob and Esau?
- What sort of issues have led to conflict in your own family? In your community? In our country?

Conflict

- How do you view Jacob's shrewdness? Is it an asset? A Liability? Both? Explain your answer.
- If perfect leadership is not possible, how do we choose our leaders? What qualities do you look for in someone that you will trust to follow? Have you been a leader? What struggles have you faced?
- Does Jacob deserve forgiveness? Why or why not? What would happen if Jacob and Esau never reconciled? What effects would it have on their lives?
- Have you ever wrestled with God? Tossed and turned in bed? What things keep you awake? How do you address those concerns?

Resolution

- What do you think motivates Esau to forgive Jacob and welcome him back to his home? Do you think his motives are full of compassion or might Esau gain something by bringing Jacob to his home?
- Are there some transgressions that leave permanent damage in our relationships? (At the end of the story, the people of Israel always remember Jacob's limp from his struggle through their habit of refraining from eating meat from the hip of livestock. Esau and Jacob live apart). What are some transgressions that have left permanent damage in our families? In our country? What are the ongoing effects of those lingering wounds? Is forgiveness a one-time occurrence or a process?
- Scholars suggest Jacob becomes the leader because he remains loyal by marrying within the Hebrew clan while Esau marries Hittites (Canaanites outside the clan). Do you think this impacts who becomes the leader? Do you think this is a legitimate criterion? What conflicts do you see in our contemporary society around tribe, clan, or affiliation? Where do you see hope for reconciliation? Where do you see lingering pain?

Sermon Notes Form

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Online Giving



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North Cape Lutheran Church
2644 124th Street, Franksville, WI 53126
northcapelutheran@gmail.com 262-835-2206



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