

1. Esau and his twin brother Jacob

- a) What supernatural events occurred in connection with the birth of Esau and Jacob? Genesis 25:21-23
- b) Genesis 25:24-27 In what ways were these twin brothers very different from each other?
- c) Genesis 25:28-34 What dysfunctions are apparent in this family system?
- d) Jacob is described as “a mild man” (tam). What is implied here? (See Job 8:20, Genesis 6:9)
- e) What revelation is given regarding Esau’s character in Hebrews 12:14-17?

2. Jacob’s deception and restoration

- a) Genesis 27:1-17 What important insights are revealed regarding the plan to deceive Isaac?
- b) How did Jacob respond to this mother’s scheme? Genesis 27:18-29
- c) How did Esau react when he realized he has lost his “despised” birthright? Genesis 27:30-41
- d) What was the response of Jacob’s parents to the death threat against their younger son? Genesis 27:42-28:5
- e) What restoration did Jacob experience on his journey north to Haran? Genesis 28:10-15
- f) What did this ladder represent? John 1:51
- g) Share a time when you tried to do things your way rather than follow God’s plan for your life. What was the result? How did the LORD restore you?

3. Deceived by his uncle Laban

- a) How did Rebekah’s brother Laban deceive his nephew Jacob? Genesis 29:20-25
- b) Why did the LORD allow this to happen?
- c) What lessons can we learn from the fact that the Messiah comes through the offspring of Leah, and a deliverer Joseph comes through the offspring of Rachel?

4. Family dysfunctions

- a) Genesis 29:31, 30:1-5, 9-10, 14-16 Why are the accounts of these embarrassing family dysfunctions included in the sacred Scriptures?
- b) How was the LORD able to accomplish His purposes in the midst of these dysfunctional situations?

5. Returning to Canaan

- a) Genesis 30:25-28 What problem do you see here?
- b) What finally caused Jacob to leave his uncle Laban and return to Canaan? Genesis 31:1-3 11-13
- c) What problems persisted in Jacob’s family? Genesis 31:19, 34-35
- d) What lessons can we learn for our lives today?