

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

2nd Annual High School Crock Off
January 31st
12:30 p.m.

C.L.A.S.S. 101-401
January 31st • 5:00 p.m.

ESL Classes Begin
February 1st • 7:00 p.m.

"So Long, Insecurity"
Simulcast with Beth Moore
February 2nd • 7:30 p.m.

Life University Tailgate Party & Kick-off
February 3rd • 5:30 p.m.



CHETS CREEK
CHURCH

4420 Hodges Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32224
www.chetscreek.com
904.223.5954

Volume XI No. 4

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Esau"

FOCUS: to examine the unethical choices of Esau and others and be challenged to live his/her life in the center of God's will.

"See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son." Hebrews 12:16 (NIV)

1. Outline the actions of the characters in the story in (Genesis 25:27-34 and 27:1-37).
 - a. Isaac
 - b. Rebekah
 - c. Esau
 - d. Jacob
2. Esau is described in (Hebrews 12:16) as a "profane person." What did that mean in the original language?
3. How are these characteristics seen in our society?
4. Can a person be "outside the temple" while being active in church? If so how?
5. Why would Jacob gain Esau's birthright and Isaac's blessing by deceitful schemes? Does this mean you 'get ahead' if you lie?
6. How did Isaac allow his sensual desire for food and his corresponding favoritism toward Esau to be an attempt to circumvent God's plan?
7. Do you ever go against God's will and try to manipulate your own life even when it is counterproductive?
8. Are you in the center of God's will right now?
9. Did God show favoritism choosing Jacob over Esau? (See Malachi 1:2-3, Romans 9:13)
10. How do we see God's sovereign transmission of His covenantal blessing overriding the choices of evil by each family member?
11. Did Esau ever repent? (Hebrews 12:17)
12. How does sin take us farther and cost us more than we ever intended?

Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:103-105

<u>Jan/Feb</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Psalms</u>	<u>Proverbs</u>
31	Exodus 5:1-6:30	Matthew 20:20-21:11	18:1-6	3:39-32
1	Exodus 7:1-8:32	Matthew 21:12-27	18:7-12	3:33-35
2	Exodus 9:1-10:20	Matthew 21:28-46	18:13-19	4:1-2
3	Exodus 10:21-12:36	Matthew 22:1-22	18:20-24	4:3-4
4	Exodus 12:37-14:20	Matthew 22:23-46	18:25-29	4:5-6
5	Exodus 14:21-16:20	Matthew 23:1-22	18:30-36	4:7-9
6	Exodus 16:21-18:27	Matthew 23:23-39	18:37-42	4:10-13
7	Exodus 19:1-20:26	Matthew 24:1-14	18:43-50	4:14-17

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Rachel - Genesis 30:1

To examine the manipulative nature of Rachel and Leah and discuss how God blesses despite their sinful ways.

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 1, 2010

Read Genesis 29:1-20 (Life is full of Happiness)

1 Then Jacob continued on his journey and came to the land of the eastern peoples. 2 There he saw a well in the field, with three flocks of sheep lying near it because the flocks were watered from that well. The stone over the mouth of the well was large. 3 When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone away from the well's mouth and water the sheep. Then they would return the stone to its place over the mouth of the well. 4 Jacob asked the shepherds, "My brothers, where are you from?" "We're from Haran," they replied. 5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban, Nahor's grandson?" "Yes, we know him," they answered. 6 Then Jacob asked them, "Is he well?" "Yes, he is," they said, "and here comes his daughter Rachel with the sheep." 7 "Look," he said, "the sun is still high; it is not time for the flocks to be gathered. Water the sheep and take them back to pasture." 8 "We can't," they replied, "until all the flocks are gathered and the stone has been rolled away from the mouth of the well. Then we will water the sheep." 9 While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother's brother, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. 12 He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. (13-20 not printed due to space)

- Who was Rachel's dad? Where did he live?
- How did Jacob and Rachel meet?
- Would you say it was love at first sight?
- What kind of arrangement did Jacob make with Laban to marry Rachel?
- Jacob and Rachel must have been ecstatic at the end of the seven years.

Today what are you happy about, and have you thanked the Lord for His blessings?

TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Read Genesis 29:21-30 (Life is full of Surprises)

21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to lie with her." 22 So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. 23 But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. 24 And Laban gave his servant girl Zilpah to his daughter as her maidservant. 25 When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" 26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. 27 Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." 28 And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29 Laban gave his servant girl Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maidservant. 30 Jacob lay with Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

- What treachery did Laban do to Jacob? How did it happen? Do you think Jacob had any thoughts of what happened between him and his brother Esau? (vs21-26)
- Have you ever been deceived? How did you feel? What did you do about it?
- Why would Jacob be willing to make another agreement with the deceiver Laban? (vs30) What do you think Rachel's feeling were toward her father?
- When you are deceived by a person, do you ask God for help in responding to the hurt or do you do things in your own power?

NOTES: _____

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Read Genesis 30:1 (Life is full of Disappointments)

1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

- Do you think there might have been a little tension in the home?
- How did Rachel handle the stress? (vs. 30:1)
- How did Jacob respond to Rachel's attitude?
- Rachel took things in her own hands to solve her disappointment, did it work?
- How do you handle the disappointments that come into your life? Don't let your emotions speed past your confidence in God.

NOTES: _____

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Read Genesis 30:22, 35:16-20 (Life is full of Joy)

22 Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb.

16 Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty. 17 And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for you have another son." 18 As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni. [a] But his father named him Benjamin. [b]

19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). 20 Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's tomb.

- Finally there was joy for Rachel. What did she name her son?
- Did Rachel have another son, and what was his name?
- What happened to Rachel during the birth of Benjamin?
- How would you rate Rachel's life? How is your life?

NOTES: _____

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 5, 2010

(Life's Experiences Help Us Grow in God's Purposes)

- Rachel's life was filled with disappointments and joy, but God had a plan and he used Rachel's life as part of that plan. Joseph was used by God to rescue the nation of Israel from extinction and sheltered them in Egypt. The tribe of Benjamin gave the church the Apostle Paul (Phil 3:5). WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE? (Jeremiah 29:11)

NOTES: _____
