



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Sibling Rivalry Can Start Young*

Text: Genesis 25:19-34

Service Date: May 4, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Everyone has a family background. Growing up, how many brothers/sisters did you have, if any? Did your parents seem to have a favorite? (It's OK to share honestly with your group if mom seemed to have a favorite!)
- Do you have any interesting or weird relatives you know about in your family lineage?

Sermon Discussion

- Take a moment to read Genesis 25:19-34. From either the text, sermon, or your Formation Journal in the past week, were there any ways in which God spoke to your heart?
- No family is perfect, although some might appear to be. If you were to describe the "perfect" family, how would you describe them? Would you then consider them blessed, annoying (in comparison to yours), or something else?
- In Genesis 25:21, Isaac prays to the Lord on behalf of his wife because she is childless. The Lord answered and Rebekah became pregnant. Why do you think Isaac's prayer was answered?
- "Jacob and his twin sibling have some noticeable differences." It's easy to want everyone to look at life the same way we do. Why do you think God creates individuals with different personalities?
- Jacob and Esau jostled with one another in their mother's womb. Have you ever had to work with someone who you automatically didn't get along with or with whom you didn't have a good connection? How'd you balance

having different personalities with needing to accomplish the work?

- Jacob and Esau also had different abilities. In relation to ministry in the local church, what does it mean for each person to use their unique gifts and abilities to serve? Have you ever been jealous of someone's talent and ability while failing to see how God has uniquely designed you?
- Have you had a chance to take the online S.H.A.P.E. test (tri-village.org/shape)? If so, did it reveal anything unique about how God had designed you? Are you currently using your gifts to serve Him or still holding off for what you think will be the "right" time?
- The sermon notes that Jacob could be devious. Do you think there are some people who just have a natural tendency to be devious in life? How do you tend to deal with such people when called to work with them?
- Paul asked the question, "Do you ever become impatient and try to outrun God's timing?" What's your response to this question, and why?
- Is there an area in your life right now where you feel out of "sync" with God and need to pray that your timing (along with the way in which you're looking at things) needs to align with His Spirit's leading. Remember- If God is in the calling, He'll be in the timing.

Books Mentioned in the Sermon

Overcoming Sin and Temptation by John Owen

When God Doesn't Make Sense by James Dobson

Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit tri-village.org/yourstory and share how God worked.