

THE STRUGGLE WITHIN

Genesis 25-27

PAT NEMMERS

March 11, 2018

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Cell Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Birthdays celebrate the day we were born. Talk about your favorite birthday memories over the years.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

Intro:

- **Remember** what your group talked about last time you met. How have you changed since then?
- **Review** the notes you took on Sunday. What is one thing that sticks out to you about what you heard?
- **Read** Genesis 25:21-34 together. In the message on Sunday, Pastor Pat gave us three reminders about God's grace.

Context:

- Isaac and Rebekah waited 20 years before Jacob and Esau were born. Talk about the last time you struggled in waiting. What did you do during your struggle?
- Jacob and Esau struggled in the womb before they were born, and they were born into struggle. What kind of family struggles were you born into?
- Esau was a macho man (an extrovert), but Jacob was quiet (an introvert). Do you relate more to the personality of Esau or Jacob? Talk about your answer.
- Pastor Pat quoted Susan Cain, saying sarcastically, "If you don't love Jesus out loud, then it must not be real love." How would you respond to her quote?
- Although Esau was an extrovert, he was an empty man. There was no evidence of God working inside him. Do you know people that claim to be Christians but their lives don't provide any evidence?

When you see the grace of God at work in some and not others, remember:

- 1. God is sovereign. He does whatever He pleases.**
 - Read Psalm 115:1-3. What kind of God would God be if He wasn't absolutely sovereign?
 - How is the sovereignty of God like a wall you crash into or a bed you fall into?
 - How have you seen God's sovereignty in your life recently?
- 2. Grace is undeserved. It goes wherever God tells it to go.**
 - Read Romans 9:13. Does it bother you or encourage you that God's chooses some and not others?
 - What might you do this week to see people through the eyes of God's grace instead of our own human perspective?
- 3. Good is God's ultimate purpose. He will use whatever means necessary to bring it about.**
 - Read Romans 8:28. Does God's "good" always mean that we will be happy? Give a few illustrations of that from your own life.
 - What "good" might God be trying to produce in your life through the struggles you are in right now?

PRAY WITH EACH OTHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that we will trust God, praise Him for His grace, and share His love with others around us.

